

· SMALL HELPS · FOR ·
· TO-DAY ·



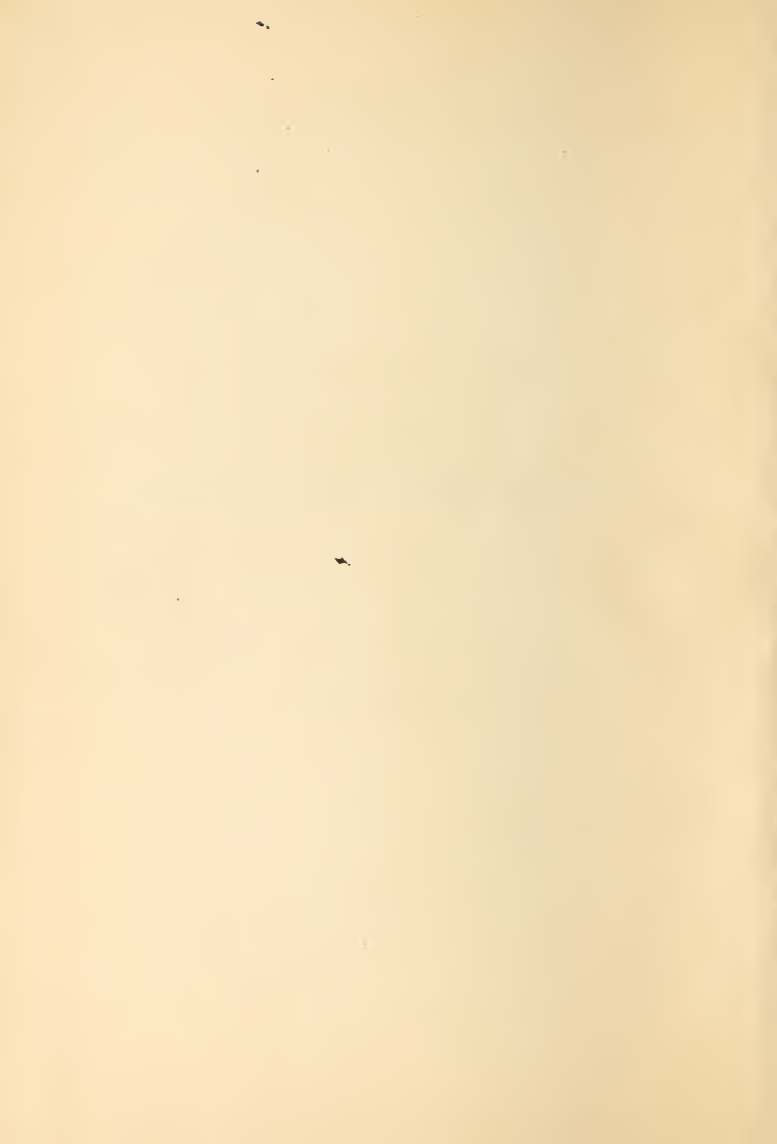
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SMALL HELPS FOR TO-DAY



SMALL HELPS

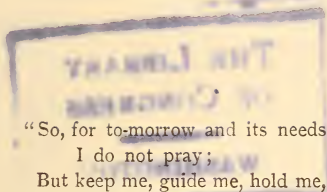
FOR TO-DAY

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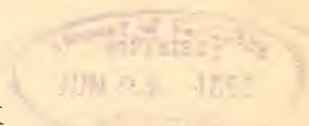
BY



IMOGEN CLARK



"So, for to-morrow and its needs
I do not pray;
But keep me, guide me, hold me, Lord,
Just for to-day."



NEW YORK

E. P. DUTTON AND COMPANY

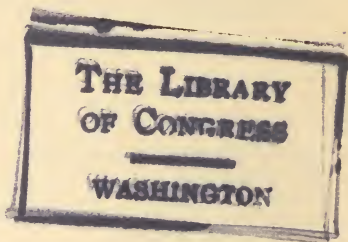
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TO

ALL WHO WOULD MAKE TO-DAY BETTER THAN YESTERDAY,
AND A STEPPING-STONE UNTO A STILL BETTER
TO-MORROW,

These "Small Helps"

ARE AFFECTIONATELY DEDICATED.

JANUARY 1.

Ye have not passed this way heretofore. —
JOSHUA iii. 4.

*If Thy presence go not with me, carry us not
up hence. —* Ex. xxxiii. 15.

LORD, go before and point the road;
I know not whither it may lead,
Nor what the work Thou hast decreed, —
Enough that Thou wilt bear the load!

Let Thy sweet presence light my way,
And hallow every cross I bear,
Transmuting duty, conflict, care,
Into love's service day by day.

IF He who knows the road, and knows our capacities and our needs, is but with us, would we wish to take the guidance out of His hands? I trow not. And so welcome to the beautiful New Year; and may we welcome all it may bring us of joy or sorrow, and learn the lesson hidden in each.

CAROLINE FOX.

Trust ye in the Lord forever. — ISA. xxvi. 4.

BELIEVE and trust. Through stars and suns,
Through life and death, through soul and sense,
His wise, paternal purpose runs;
The darkness of His providence
Is star-lit with benign intents.

O joy supreme! I know the Voice
Like none besides on earth or sea;
Yea, more, — O soul of mine, rejoice, —
By all that He requires of me,
I know what God Himself must be.

JOHN GREENLEAF WHITTIER.

BELIEVE in God; trust God by obedience
to the uttermost; trust Him for a way
when there is no way, for light when there is
no light, for all things when you have nothing,
for joy when there is only sorrow, for life when
you are in the midst of death; thus you will
find at last that faith is not only righteousness,
but life and joy and peace.

THEODORE T. MUNGER.

When He giveth quietness, who then can make trouble. — JOB xxxiv. 29.

LET Thy mercy's wings be spread
O'er me; keep me close to Thee.
In the peace Thy love doth shed
Let me dwell eternally.
Be my All; in all I do
Let me only seek Thy will.
Where the heart to Thee is true,
All is peaceful, calm, and still.

A. H. FRANCKE.

ALL the peace and favor of the world cannot calm a troubled heart; but where the peace is which Christ gives, all the trouble and disquiet of the world cannot disturb it. All outward distress to such a mind is but as the rattling of the hail upon the tiles to him that sits within the house at a sumptuous banquet.

ARCHBISHOP LEIGHTON.

Give us this day our daily bread. — MATT. vi. 11.

MASTER, help ! From hour to hour,
Lord, I need Thy saving power, —
Not to soothe to-morrow's woes,
Not to bless to-night's repose.
Now I hunger to be fed ;
Give to-day Thy daily bread.

Every moment hold my hand ;
Without Thee I cannot stand.
Show my foot the place to tread ;
Step by step I must be led.
Go before me all the way ;
Give me daily bread to-day !

ROSE TERRY COOKE.

WHAT is this bread, O my God ? It is not merely the support which Thy providence supplies for the necessities of life ; it is also the nourishment of truth which Thou givest each day to the soul. It is the bread of eternal life, giving it vigor, and making it grow in faith. Thou dost renew it every day. Thou givest within and without precisely what the soul needs for its advancement in a life of faith and renunciation. For whatever happens to me each day is my daily bread, provided I do not refuse to take it from Thy hand and feed upon it.

FÉNELON.

Strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, unto all patience and long-suffering with joyfulness. — COL. i. 11.

I LONGED to gird the harness on,
To work with might and will :
Stern was the voice that said to me, —
My child, wait and be still.

He only knoweth how to serve
Who knoweth how to wait ;
Thus test I all who wish to work
Within my vineyard gate.

MARY FRANCES BUTTS.

WORKING or waiting, our souls will hang on Him. And waiting, as we must recognize and remember, is a sacrifice of self, a real martyrdom no less than working. To win the soul in patience, to bear the trial of delay, to watch for the dawn through the chill hours which precede it, to keep fresh and unsullied the great hope that Christ will come, is a witness to the powers of the unseen world, which the Spirit of God alone can make possible.

BROOKE FOSS WESTCOTT.

Abstain from all appearance of evil. —

I THESS. v. 22.

GOD does not say, "Be beautiful," "Be wise,"
Be aught that man in man will overprize;
Only "Be good," the tender Father cries.

We seek to mount the still ascending stair,
To greatness, glory, and the crowns they bear;
We mount to fall heart-sickened in despair.

The purposes of life misunderstood
Baffle and wound us, but God only would
That we should heed His simple words, "Be good!"

WILLIAM SAWYER.

GOODNESS is the only investment that
never fails. In the music of the harp
that trembles round the world, it is the insist-
ing on this which thrills us.

HENRY DAVID THOREAU.

Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these, my brethren, ye have done it unto me. — MATT. xxv. 40.

STILL wheresoever pity shares
Its bread with sorrow, want, and sin,
And love the beggar's feast prepares,
The uninvited guest comes in.

Unheard, because our ears are dull,
Unseen, because our eyes are dim,
He walks our earth, The Wonderful;
And all good deeds are done to Him.

JOHN GREENLEAF WHITTIER.

WE can only do a deed *to* God by doing that deed *for* Him, — only by offering ours as the hands with which it shall be done. Our human love for one another, and all our human help, is not less His for being ours. "God's tender mercy" is the name in heaven for what we call on earth "a drink of water." Many dear things of Providence He hands to His little ones *by each other*. Sometimes how *can* He reach them else? And sometimes whom can He use but you and me?

WILLIAM CHANNING GANNETT.

I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help. — Ps. cxxi. 1.

BECKON us upward, ye sky-loving peaks,
Whose home is far above these vales of sin.
'T is earth around us ; but beyond there breaks
A light which bids us rise and enter in.

The sun is on your heights ; and from those cliffs
It speaks to us of love and glory there ;
Like some fresh joyous angel that alights
To call us upward to the good and fair.

HORATIUS BONAR.

IF we look down, then our shoulders stoop.
If our thoughts look down our character
bends. It is only when we hold our heads
up that the body becomes erect. It is only
when our thoughts go up that our life be-
comes erect.

ALEXANDER MCKENZIE.

He that contemneth small things shall fall by little and little. — ECCLUS. xix. 1.

DESPISE not little sins ;

The gallant ship may sink,

Though only drop by drop

The watery tide it drink.

RICHARD CHENEVIX TRENCH.

THE sins by which God's spirit is ordinarily grieved are the sins of small things, — laxities in keeping the temper, slight neglect of duty, lightness, sharpness of dealing. If it is your habit to walk with God in the humblest occupations of your day, it is very nearly certain that you will be filled with the Spirit always.

HORACE BUSHNELL.

And Jesus saith unto them: How many loaves have ye? — MATT. xv. 34.

So still, dear Lord, in every place
Thou standest by the toiling folk
With love and pity in Thy face,
And givest of Thy help and grace
To those who meekly bear the yoke.

The lives which seem so poor and low,
The hearts which are so cramped and dull,
The baffled hopes, the impulse slow,
Thou takest, touchest all, — and lo!
They blossom to the beautiful.

SUSAN COOLIDGE.

“**H**OW many loaves have ye?” It is the Lord’s first question; and the hands of those who really want His help search their robes to see what they have hidden there. One brings his joy; another brings his pain; another brings his helpless desire; another brings his poor resolution; another has nothing to bring except just his sorrow that he has nothing. It is a poor collection, — only seven loaves and a few little fishes, — but it is enough! His blessing falls upon them, and they come back to the souls which gave them up to Him multiplied into the means of healthy, holy, happy life.

PHILLIPS BROOKS.

By thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned. — MATT. xii. 37.

WORDS are mighty, words are living;
Serpents with their venomous stings,
Or bright angels crowding round us
With heaven's light upon their wings.
Every word has its own spirit,
True or false, that never dies;
Every word man's lips have uttered
Echoes in God's skies.

ADELAIDE ANNE PROCTER.

THE evil word — and oh, remember this —
is a step, a long step, beyond the evil
thought; and it is a step toward the precipice's edge.

FREDERIC W. FARRAR.

REMEMBER that every word you utter wings
its way to the throne of God, and is to affect
the condition of your soul forever.

TODD.

Truth shall be thy shield and buckler. — Ps.
xci. 4.

GET but the truth once uttered, and 't is like
A star new-born that drops into its place,
And which, once circling in its placid round,
Not all the tumult of the earth can shake.

JAMES RUSSELL LOWELL.

DELIGHT no less in truth than life.

SHAKESPEARE.

Goldsmith : For my part, I'd tell the truth
and shame the devil.

Johnson : Yes, sir ; but the devil will be
angry. I wish to shame the devil as much as
you do, but I should choose to be out of the
reach of his claws.

Goldsmith : His claws can do you no harm
when you have the shield of truth.

Boswell's Life of Johnson.

Pray without ceasing. — I THESS. V. 17.

MORE things are wrought by prayer
Than this world dreams of. Wherefore let thy voice
Rise like a fountain for me night and day ;
For what are men better than sheep or goats,
That nourish a blind life within the brain,
If knowing God, they lift not hands in prayer,
Both for themselves and those who call them friend ?
For so the whole round world is every way
Bound by gold chains about the feet of God.

ALFRED TENNYSON.

PRAYER is the door forever open between
earth and heaven. Sooner than sound
can reach a human ear through this lower at-
mosphere the longing desire of the spirit rises
to the heart of the Eternal Friend. Whether
we believe it or not, we are living in an invis-
ible world, where our wishes are understood
before our words are spoken.

LUCY LARCOM.

*Not slothful in business, fervent in spirit,
serving the Lord.*—ROM. xii. 11.

SINCE Thou hast added now, O God !
Unto my life another day,
And giv'st me leave to walk abroad
And labor in my lawful way,
My walks and works with me begin ;
Conduct me forth and bring me in.

GEORGE WITHER.

REMEMBER that if the opportunities for great deeds should never come, the opportunity for good deeds is renewed for you day by day. The thing for us to long for is the goodness, not the glory.

FREDERIC W. FARRAR.

One only is the law-giver and judge, even He who is able to save and to destroy; but who art thou that judgest thy neighbor? — JAMES iv. 12.
(R. V.)

THOU alone
Keepest judgment for Thine own;
Only unto Thee is known

What to pity, what to blame;
How the fierce temptation came;
What is honor, what is shame.

ALICE CARY.

GOD sees us altogether, not in separate feelings or actions as our fellow-men see us. We are always doing each other injustice, because we only hear separate feelings or actions; we don't see each other's whole nature.

GEORGE ELIOT.

NO man can justly censure or condemn another, because, indeed, no man truly knows another.

SIR THOMAS BROWNE.

In God have I put my trust; I will not be afraid. — Ps. lvi. 4. (R. V.)

OH, heart of mine, we should n't
 Worry so !
 What we've missed of calm we could n't
 Have, you know !
 What we've met of stormy pain,
 And of sorrow's driving rain,
 We can better meet again
 If it blow.

We have erred in that dark hour
 We have known ;
 When our tears fell with the shower
 All alone.
 Were not shine and shadow blent,
 As the gracious Master meant ?
 Let us temper our content
 With His own.

For we know not every morrow
 Can be sad ;
 So, forgetting all the sorrow
 We have had,
 Let us fold away our fears,
 And put by our foolish tears,
 And through all the coming years
 Just be glad.

JAMES WHITCOMB REILLY.

G^{OD} writes straight on crooked lines.
 Spanish Proverb.

Not my will, but Thine be done. — LUKE
xxii. 42.

WHATE'ER my Father wills is best, —
Delight or suffering, toil or rest, —
Thine eye, and Thine alone, can see
What I should have, and do, and be.
I only ask that I may know
The way which Thou wouldst have me go;
That I my will in Thine may lose;
That what Thou, Lord, for me shalt choose,
I, too, may choose.

C. W. HARRIS.

THERE are no disappointments, it has been
said, to those whose wills are bound up
in the will of God.

The Light of the Conscience.

But this I say, brethren, the time is short. —

1 COR. vii. 29.

THEY are such dear, familiar feet that go
Along the path with ours, — feet fast or slow,
And trying to keep pace, — if they mistake,
Or tread upon some flower that we would take
Upon our breast, or bruise some reed,
Or crush poor Hope until it bleed,
We may be mute,
Not turning quickly to impute
Grave fault; for they and we
Have such a little way to go — can be
Together such a little while along the way —
We will be patient while we may.

HOW careful one ought to be to be kind
and thoughtful to one's old friends. It
is so soon too late to be good to them, and
then one is always so grieved.

SARAH ORNE JEWETT.

*For the vision is yet for an appointed time,
but at the end it shall speak, and not lie : though
it tarry, wait for it ; because it will surely come,
it will not tarry. — HAB. ii. 3.*

HASTE not ! rest not ! calmly wait ;
Meekly bear the storms of fate !
Duty be thy polar guide ;
Do the right whate'er betide !
Haste not ! rest not ! conflicts past,
God shall crown thy work at last.

JOHANN WOLFGANG VON GOETHE.

“DOE the next thyng.” What a grand motto that was ! And that was a good motto, “Répos ailleurs.” Work here, rest is elsewhere ; wipe thy tears ; cease thy sighing ; do thy work.

FREDERIC W. FARRAR.

Do thy diligence. — 2 TIM. iv. 9.

THERE lies no desert in the land of life ;
For e'en that tract that barrenest doth seem,
Labored of thee, in faith and hope, shall teem
With heavenly harvest and rich gatherings rife.

FRANCES KEMBLE.

WHEN you awake in the morning, and when that heavy pain wakes too, — oh, so sharply ! — and the burden of a monotonous life falls down upon you, or rises like a dead, blank wall before you, making you turn round on your pillow, longing for another night instead of an insupportable day, rouse yourself. Remember what you are, — a child of God ; Say, “ What have I got to do to-day ? ” Not “ What have I to enjoy or suffer ? ” but “ What have I to do ? ” Don't try to be happy, but try to work. Work for God, and happiness will come.

So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God. — ROM. xiv. 12.

GOD bends from out the deep, and says,

“I gave thee the great gift of life;

Wast thou not called in many ways?

Are not my heaven and earth at strife?

I gave thee of my seed to sow;

Bringest thou me thy hundredfold?”

Can I look up with face aglow

And answer, “Father, here is gold?”

JAMES RUSSELL LOWELL.

WE are not our own, but His; and we are to live not according to our caprice, but according to His commandment. Whatever we bury out of sight we must account for.

N. L. FROTHINGHAM.

Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast. — HEB. vi. 19.

GOD liveth ever !
Wherefore, Soul, despair thou never !
What though thou tread with bleeding feet
A thorny path of grief and gloom,
Thy God will choose the way most meet
To lead thee heavenwards, lead thee home.
For this life's long night of sadness
He will give thee peace and gladness.
Soul remember in thy pains
God o'er all forever reigns.

ZIHN.

WHO can really think and not think hopefully? You were in my mind last night, and you brought a little boat to sail me past despondency of life and the fear of extinction. When we despair and discolor things it is our senses in revolt, and they have made the sovereign brain their drudge. I heard you whisper, "There is nothing the body suffers that the soul may not profit by." With that I sail into the dark ; it is my promise of the immortal, — teaches me to see immortality for us.

GEORGE MEREDITH.

Now are we sure that Thou knowest all things. — JOHN xvi. 30.

ONLY God knows the trials that we bear,
The weary longing for a different fate,
The daily struggle and the anxious care,—
He knows, and we can wait.

Only God knows, — we have no want beside !
Our Father watches o'er us from above ;
We feel our weakness, but His hand will guide.
He knows, and He is Love !

MARY LOWE DICKINSON.

TRUST Him implicitly, submit to Him cheerfully, and you will find that all shall be well ; that more grace will be given you ; that the heavier the trial the larger will be the blessed measure of the strength. The Shepherd is leading you in the right way to His own blessed fold. Leave it all to Him.

ALEXANDER MCKENZIE.

Whatsoever ye do, do it heartily as to the Lord, and not unto men. — COL. iii. 23.

THE ministry of little things,
Not counted mean or small
By that dear alchemy which brings
Some grain of gold from all:
The faith to wait as well as work,
Whatever may befall.

SUSAN COOLIDGE.

LITTLE self-denials, little honesties, little passing words of sympathy, little nameless acts of kindness, little silent victories over favorite temptations, — these are the silent threads of gold which, when woven together, gleam out so brightly in the pattern of life that God approves.

FREDERIC W. FARRAR.

As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men. — GAL. vi. 10.

THE means that Heaven yields must be embraced
And not neglected.

SHAKESPEARE.

Miss not the occasion ; by the forelock take
That subtle power, the never-halting time,
Lest a mere moment's putting off should make
Mischance almost as heavy as a crime.

WILLIAM WORDSWORTH.

IT is decreed in the providence of God that although the opportunities for doing good, which are in the power of every man, are beyond count or knowledge, yet the opportunity once neglected, no man by any self-sacrifice can atone for those who have fallen or suffered by his negligence.

JULIANA HORATIA EWING.

Let every man prove his own work, and then shall he have rejoicing in himself alone, and not in another. — GAL. vi. 4.

NOR serve we only when we gird
Our hearts for special ministry;
That creature best has ministered
Which is what it was meant to be.

“I HAVE desired,” says King Alfred the Great, “to live worthily while I have lived, and after my life to leave the men that should be after me a remembrance in good works.” How lofty the simple words are! Duty, not romantic achievement, is the aim of his life; not to do some “great thing,” but the right thing, — the right thing being simply what God gave him to do. He seems to have felt in his inmost being that each man was sent into the world, not to live like some one else, but to do his own work and bear his own burden, — precisely the one work which God has given him, and which can never be given to or done by another.

ELIZABETH CHARLES.

In quietness and in confidence shall be your strength. — ISA. xxx. 15.

I WOULD be quiet, Lord !
Nor tease nor fret ;
Not one small need of mine
Wilt Thou forget.

JULIA C. R. DORR.

CONFIDENCE is the secret of strength.

MONOD.

A MIND may be still though active ; and the quietness which is part of the “ confidence ” we have in Him, the Christ, is only found in the close abiding in Him, emblemed in His own parable of the Vine and the branches.

ROSE PORTER.

And thine ears shall hear a word behind thee, saying, This is the way, walk ye in it. —

ISA. xxx. 21.

A CALM path

Which lies before the feet through common ways
And undistinguished crowds of toiling men,
And yet is hard to tread, though seeming smooth,
And yet, though level, earns a worthier crown.
For knowledge is a steep which few may climb;
But duty is a path which all may tread.

LEWIS MORRIS.

LET it make no difference to thee whether thou art cold or warm if thou art doing thy duty, and whether thou art drowsy or satisfied with sleep, and whether ill-spoken of or praised.

MARCUS AURELIUS.

BE not diverted from your duty by any idle reflections the silly world may make on you; for their censures are not in your power, and consequently should be no part of your concern.

EPICTETUS.

As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also. — JAMES ii. 26.

'T IS not the wide phylactery,
Nor stubborn fast, nor stated prayers,
That make us saints; we judge the tree
By what it bears.

And when a man can live apart
From works, on theologic trust,
I know the blood about his heart
Is dry as dust.

ALICE CARY.

THE effective life and the receptive life are one. No sweep of arm that does some work for God but harvests also some more of the truth of God, and sweeps it into the treasury of life.

PHILLIPS BROOKS.

The Lord shall be unto thee an everlasting light. — ISA. lx. 19.

THERE is no day so dark
But through the murk some ray of hope may steal,
Some blessèd touch from Heaven that we might feel
If we but chose to mark.

CELIA THAXTER.

LET us all be sure that all is well, whatever comes, while we trust and stand fast and strive, and only hopeless — and rightly hopeless — when we want what we are in no wise willing to earn. The glory and the glow of life come by right living. So then, while we may not know what trials wait on any of us, we can believe that as the days in which Job wrestled with his dark maladies are the only days that make him worth remembrance, and but for which his name had never been written in the Book of life; so the days through which we struggle, finding no way, but never losing the light, will be the most significant we are called to live.

ROBERT COLLYER.

Thou shalt give unto the Lord thy God according as the Lord thy God hath blessed thee.

— DEUT. xvi. 10.

FOR the best that thou canst be
Is the service asked of thee.

THE Almighty in His providence does not ask of us uniform rents for our rights and lives, as earthly landlords sometimes do. He only asks for the rightful use of the talent entrusted to us. The taxes of Heaven are never *per capita*, but always *pro rata*. Not the formal observance of each and all alike, but every heart's best love, every hand's readiest service. Not the number of acres you till, but the quality of your tilling determines the profit of the harvest in spiritual as well as material farming. This standard exacts no promises, but it accepts no apologies; for there is no occasion for apology when you have done all you can.

JENKIN LLOYD JONES.

A merry heart maketh a cheerful countenance. — PROV. xv. 13.

WHY not take life with cheerful trust,
With faith in the strength of weakness?
The slenderest daisy rears its head
With courage and with meekness.
A sunny face
Hath holy grace
To woo the sun forever.

MARY MAPES DODGE.

IT is part of my religion to look well after the cheerfulnesses of life, and let the dismals shift for themselves, believing with good Sir Thomas More that it is wise to be "merrie in God."

LOUISA MAY ALCOTT.

I DO not know any way so sure of making others happy as of being so one's self.

SIR ARTHUR HELPS.

Thou also shalt seek strength. — NAHUM iii. 11.

WE ask not that our path be always bright,
But for Thine aid to walk therein aright;
That Thou, O Lord ! through all its devious way
Wilt give us strength sufficient to our day,
For this we pray.

WILLIAM BURLEIGH.

IF thou look to thyself, thou shalt be able of
thyself to accomplish nothing. But if thou
trust in the Lord, strength shall be given thee
from Heaven, and the world and the flesh shall
be made subject to thy command.

THOMAS À KEMPIS.

SHOULD we feel at times disheartened and
discouraged, a confiding thought, a simple
movement of the heart towards God, will
renew our powers. Whatever He may de-
mand of us, He will give us at the moment
the strength and courage that we need.

FÉNELON.

All things work together for good to them that love God. — ROM. viii. 28.

O WHAT a load of struggle and distress
Falls off before the Cross! The feverish care;
The wish that we were other than we are;
The sick regrets; the yearnings numberless;
The thought, "this might have been," so apt to press
On the reluctant soul; even past despair,
Past sin itself, — all, all is turned to fair,
Aye! to a scheme of ordered happiness,
So soon as we love God.

CHAUNCY HARE TOWNSHEND.

THOSE who love God will find all things working together for their good. Everything helps them, as sunshine or storm, summer or winter, helps the tree. When the sun shines warmly, the tree opens all its buds and leaves and drinks in the warm air, and grows. When the cold storms of winter beat upon it, it withdraws into itself, and shuts its pores, and tightens its hold by the roots, and hardens. So when all things are pleasant in life we enjoy them gratefully, and expand in God's sunshine with thankful hearts. When disappointment and trial come we learn to be patient, trusting, submissive, hopeful, firm, and true, and that is good for us also.

JAMES FREEMAN CLARKE.

For, behold, the kingdom of God is within you. — LUKE xvii. 21.

WE are ourselves
Our heaven and hell, the joys, the penalty,
The yearnings, the fruition. Earth is hell
Or heaven, and yet not only earth; but still,
After the swift soul leaves the gates of death,
The pain grows deeper and less mixed, the joy
Purer and less alloyed, and we are damned
Or blest as we have lived.

LEWIS MORRIS.

WE must make people feel that heaven and hell are not places for drinking sweet wine, or being broiled alive, some distance off; but they are here before us, and within us in the street, and at the fireside.

THOMAS CARLYLE.

The love of Christ constraineth us. — 2 COR.
V. 14.

BLEST be Thy love, dear Lord,
That taught us this sweet way
Only to love Thee for Thyself,
And for that love obey.

JOHN AUSTEN.

“THE love of Christ constraineth me.” It is in the light of these words that we come to understand the meaning of the cross of Christ. If love is to be the king of your life and mine, if with us here, amid all the strife and rivalry that make up our “workaday world,” the voice that bids us love is to be regnant over all other voices, somewhere or other there must be the spell that compels us to do so. An apostle has found the spell when he wrote, “the love of Christ constraineth me;” and other men than he, aye, a multitude whom no man can number, have looked also into the face crowned with thorns, and have learned there how to love.

HENRY C. POTTER.

Boast not thyself of to-morrow; for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth.—

PROV. xxvii. 1.

IN human hearts what bolder thoughts can rise
Than man's presumption on to-morrow's dawn?
Where is to-morrow? In another world,
For numbers this is certain: the reverse
Is sure to none.

YOUNG.

HOW mankind defers from day to day the best it can do, and the most beautiful things it can enjoy, without thinking that every day may be the last one, and that lost time is lost eternity.

MAX MÜLLER.

*Joy and gladness shall be found therein,
thanksgiving, and the voice of melody. — ISA.
li. 3.*

SO brief the time to smile,
Why darken we the air
With frowns and tears, the while
We nurse despair ?

Stand in the sunshine, sweet,
And treasure every ray ;
Nor seek with stubborn feet
The darksome way.

CELIA THAXTER.

I USED to think it was great to disregard happiness, to press on to a high goal, careless, disdainful of it. But now I see that there is nothing so great as to be capable of happiness, to pluck it out of "each moment and whatever happens;" to find that one can ride as gay and buoyant on the angry, menacing, tumultuous waves of life as on those that glide and glitter under a clear sky; that it is not defeat and wretchedness which come out of the storms of adversity, but strength and calmness.

ANNE GILCHRIST.

Ask, and ye shall receive. — JOHN xvi. 24.

O DUMB, deaf, blind, receive !

Shall He who made the ear not hear your cry ?

Doth He not tenderly see who made the eye ?

Ask Me that I may give.

ADELINE D. T. WEITNEY.

THERE is nothing too great, nothing too small, for us to bring to the One of all compassion. I think it is the going to God with our every want that He loves. Hence the oftener we go the more we please Him, for our asking for the to us seemingly little things is but demonstrating our entire dependence on Him ; and surely this dependence, this trust, is what makes us the children of our Heavenly Father.

ROSE PORTER.

He that is slow to anger is better than the mighty; and he that ruleth his spirit than he that taketh a city. — PROV. xvi. 32.

LET each man raise
The self by soul, not trample down the self;
Soul is self's friend when self doth rule o'er self.

Song Celestial.

IF, then, you wish not to be of an angry temper, do not feed the habit; throw nothing on it which will increase it; at first keep quiet, and count the days on which you have not been angry; for the habit at first begins to be weakened, and then is completely destroyed. When you can say, "I have not been vexed to-day, nor the day before, nor yet on any succeeding day during two or three months, but I took care when some exciting things happened," be assured that you are in a good way.

EPICETUS.

TO rule oneself is in reality the greatest triumph.

SIR JOHN LUBBOCK.

That ye love one another. — JOHN XV. 17.

GIVE thy heart's best treasures,
From fair Nature learn;
Give thy love, and ask not,
Wait not a return.
And the more thou spendest
From thy little store,
With a double bounty
God will give thee more.

ADELAIDE ANNE PROCTER.

THE beautiful law of Christian love, life, and truth is that the more we give of our own capital the more that capital increases. The widow's cruse of oil and barrel of meal increased as she distributed them; and a Christian's sunshine and happiness, faith and hope, will be invigorated and multiplied in proportion as he tries to make others hopeful, trustful, and happy.

JOHN CUMMING.

Changed into the same image from glory to glory. — 2 COR. iii. 18.

O HEARTS of love ! O souls that turn
Like sunflowers to the pure and best !
To you the truth is manifest ;
For they the mind of Christ discern
Who lean, like John, upon His breast.

JOHN GREENLEAF WHITTIER.

STAND in Christ's presence and mirror His character, and you will be changed in spite of yourself, and unknown to yourself, into the same image, from character to character. Every man is a reflector ; that is the principle upon which this is based. He cannot help reflecting ; he cannot help showing the environment in which he has lived, the influences that have played round him. . . . All friendship, all love, — human and Divine, — is spiritual, so that it is no difficulty in reflecting the character of Christ that we have never been in visible contact with Him. He does not appeal to the eye ; He appeals to the soul, and is reflected, not from the body, but the soul.

HENRY DRUMMOND.

Lord, teach us to pray. — LUKE xi. 1.

O THOU by whom we come to God, —

The life, the truth, the way !

The path of prayer Thyself hath trod ;

Lord, teach us how to pray.

JAMES MONTGOMERY.

WHEREVER there is religion there is prayer,
and wherever there is a religious soul
there is heard the language of prayer.

FRANCIS B. HORN BROOKE.

THEE mustna undervally prayer. Prayer
mayna bring money, but it brings us what no
money can buy, — a power to keep from sin,
and be content with God's will, whatever He
may please to send.

GEORGE ELIOT.

The Lord shall give thee rest. — ISA. xiv. 3.

THE human tide goes rushing down to death;
Turn thou a moment from the current broad
And listen: — What is this the silence saith,
O Soul? “Be still, and know that I am God.”

The mighty God! Here shalt thou find thy rest,
O weary one! There is naught else to know,
Naught else to seek, — here thou mayst cease thy quest;
Give thyself up; He leads where thou shouldst go.

CELIA THAXTER.

O GOD! Thou hast made us for Thyself,
our souls are unsatisfied, and are unquiet
in us; there is emptiness till Thou dost communicate Thyself, till we return unto Thee. . . .
Self-denial, self-surrender, devotion are Thy injunctions upon us, not for Thy sake, but that we, who are empty, shallow, insufficient, may go out of ourselves, and find in Thee fulness, satisfaction, and abundance.

BENJAMIN WHICHCOTE.

Commit thy works unto the Lord, and thy thoughts shall be established. — PROV. xvi. 3.

WHEN first thy eyes unveil, give thy soul leave
To do the like; our bodies but forerun
The spirit's duty. True hearts spread and heave
Unto their God as flow'rs do to the sun.
Give Him thy first thoughts then; so shalt thou keep
Him company all day, and in Him sleep.

HENRY VAUGHAN.

EVERY morning before we cross our thresh-
old, before we make a single plan or ap-
pointment for the day, we must give ourselves
unto our Father's business. We are not, as we
sometimes do, to determine what we will do,
and then devote it to God, but we are first to
devote ourselves to God, and ask Him what
we shall do.

ALEXANDER MCKENZIE.

O Lord, I am oppressed ; undertake for me. —
ISA. xxxviii. 14.

BEING in straits I cry,
Lord, make a way !
Open a door for me ;
Help me, I pray !
Gold Thou hast endless store ;
Strength, all I want and more.
All hearts are in Thy hand, —
Nothing can Thee withstand ;
Lord, look and give command.

ANNA WARNER.

IT is better to go at once to Jesus with our difficulties. We are worried and perplexed. Why not tell Jesus first instead of running with our griefs to our friends ? However willing they may be, they are often unable to help us. The Christian who has learned to lean on Jesus for counsel and comfort has learned the secret of the Lord, — “ the peace that passeth understanding.”

For we are saved by hope. — ROM. viii. 24.

AND do not fear to hope. Can poet's brain
More than the Father's heart rich good invent?
Each time we smell the autumn's dying scent
We know the primrose time will come again;
Not more we hope, nor less would soothe our pain.

GEORGE MACDONALD.

“WE should hope for everything that is good,” says the old poet Linus, “because there is nothing which may not be hoped for, and nothing but what the gods are able to give us.” Hope quickens all the still parts of life, and keeps the mind awake in her most remiss and indolent hours. It gives habitual serenity and good humor; it is a kind of vital heat in the soul that cheers and gladdens her when she does not attend to it. It makes pain easy and labor pleasant.

JOSEPH ADDISON.

*And the Lord shall guide thee continually,
and satisfy thy soul in drought. — ISA. lviii. 11.*

MY Shepherd is the Lord my God,
There is no want I know;
His flocks He leads in verdant meads
Where tranquil waters flow.

He doth restore my fainting soul
With His divine caress,
And when I stray He points the way
To paths of righteousness.

EUGENE FIELD.

THROUGH every step in life the Shepherd offers to guide us, if we will but hear His voice and follow Him. He never promises smooth paths, but He does promise safe ones. If we follow Him we may find the steepest cliff "a path of pleasantness," and the lowest vale of humiliation a highway to peace.

THEODORE L. CUYLER.

Whoso trusteth in the Lord, happy is he. —

PROV. xvi. 20.

THE child leans on its parent's breast,
Leaves there its cares and is at rest;
The bird sits singing by its nest,
And tells aloud
His trust in God, and so is blest
'Neath every cloud.

The heart that trusts forever sings,
And feels as light as it had wings;
A well of peace within it springs,
Come good or ill.
Whate'er to-day, to-morrow brings,
It is His will.

ISAAC WILLIAMS.

HE who believes that God's will always must be done prays not when this or that event arises, but ever prays that, more and more, he may come into harmony with it. And out of this constant prayer of the soul that desires not gifts from, but communion with the Giver, there comes a sense of trust.

FRANCIS B. HORN BROOKE.

Thy kingdom come. — MATT. vi. 10.

THY kingdom come with power and grace
To every heart of man;
Thy peace, thy joy, thy righteousness,
In all our bosoms reign.

CHARLES WESLEY.

THE kingdom of heaven is not come when
God's will is our law; it is come when
God's will is our will. While God's will is our
law we are but a kind of noble slaves; when
His will is our will we are free children.

PHILAMON had gone forth to see the world,
and he had seen it; and he had learned that
God's kingdom was not a kingdom of fanatics
yelling for a doctrine, but of willing, loving,
obedient hearts.

CHARLES KINGSLEY.

Behold, I stand at the door and knock. —
REV. iii. 20.

OPEN the door with shame if you have sinned ;
If you be sorry, open it with sighs ;
Albeit the place be bare for poverty,
And comfortless for lack of plenishing,
Be not abashed for that, but open it,
And take Him in that comes to sup with thee.

NO power — not even that of God Himself — can open that door from the outside. Only the soul itself can open itself. But if, with perfect simplicity and unaffectedness, any one of us is able to just put aside the bolt of his own wilfulness and open his door and say, “Almighty God, come in to me; Spirit of Christ, be Thou my guest; Father, I have sinned, forgive me,” then it is as if the sharper days of winter were melting into the approaching spring, and as if one of us came down some morning in his heated house, and should throw his door open to the gentle air, and there should flow in upon him the milder freshness and the purer fragrance of a renewing and reviving world.

FRANCIS G. PEABODY.

They that seek the Lord shall not want any good thing. — Ps. xxxiv. 10.

FATHER! replenish with Thy grace
This longing heart of mine;
Make it Thy quiet dwelling-place,
Thy sacred, inmost shrine!
Forgive that oft my spirit wears
Her time and strength in trivial cares;
Enfold her in Thy changeless peace,
So she from all but Thee shall cease.

ANGELUS SILESIIUS.

GOD is Alpha and Omega in the great world; endeavor to make Him so in thy little world. Make Him thy evening epilogue and thy morning prologue; practise to make Him thy last thought at night when thou sleepest, and thy first thought in the morning when thou awakest; so shall thy fancy be sanctified in the night, and thy understanding rectified in the day. So shall thy rest be peaceful, thy labors prosperous, and thy death glorious.

QUARLES.

Whosoever will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. —

MARK viii. 34.

THE cross is not so hard to bear
Since I have learned to say,
O Lord, I walk not anywhere
Unless Thou lead'st the way.

S. R. LEROY.

BOTH above and below, which way soever
thou dost turn thee, everywhere thou
shalt find the cross; and everywhere of
necessity thou must have patience if thou
wilt have inward peace, and enjoy an ever-
lasting crown.

THOMAS À KEMPIS.

TO repel one's cross is to make it heavier.

HENRI FRÉDÉRIC AMIEL.

I will not let thee go, except thou bless me. —

GEN. xxxii. 26.

LIKE a tide our work should rise,
Each later wave the best;
To-day is a king in disguise,
To-day is the special test.

Like a sawyer's work is life, —
The present makes the flaw;
And the only field for strife
Is the inch before the saw.

JOHN BOYLE O'REILLY.

THE days are ever divine. They come and go like muffled and veiled figures sent from a distant friendly party; but they say nothing, and if we do not use the gifts they bring they carry them as silently away.

RALPH WALDO EMERSON.

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. — Ps. xlv. 1.

CONSOLE thyself with His word of grace,
And cease thy wail of woe;
For His mercy never an equal hath,
And His love no bounds can know.
Lean close unto Him in faith and hope;
How many like thee have found
In Him a shelter and home of peace,
By His mercy compassed round!

JOHN GREENLEAF WHITTIER.

WHERE but in Thee have we a covert from
storm, or shadow from the heat of life?
In our manifold temptations Thou alone know-
est, and art ever nigh; in sorrow Thy pity re-
vives the fainting soul; in our prosperity and
ease it is Thy Spirit only that can ween us from
pride and keep us low.

JAMES MARTINEAU.

What doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God? — MICAH vi. 8.

LET the world be better, brighter,
For your having trod its way;
Let your light be seen afar,
Ere sinks down life's little day.

Scatter seeds of love and kindness
As you tread the heavenward road;
You will find them all again
In the paradise of God.

SISTER DORA.

(Dorothy Wyndlow Pattison.)

THERE is nothing so powerful as example.
We put others straight by walking straight
ourselves.

MADAME SWETCHINE.

WHAT do we live for if it is not to make
life less difficult to each other!

GEORGE ELIOT.

As one whom his mother comforteth, so will I comfort you. — ISA. lxvi. 13.

SPEAK low to me, my Saviour, low and sweet,
From out the hallelujahs, sweet and low,
Lest I should fear and fall, and miss Thee so,
Who art not missed by any that entreat.
Speak to me as to Mary at Thy feet;
And if no precious gums my hands bestow,
Let my tears drop, like amber, while I go
In search of Thy divinest voice, complete
In humanest affection; thus, in sooth,
To lose the sense of losing! As a child,
Whose song bird seeks the woods forevermore,
Is sung to, in its stead, by mother's mouth,
Till sinking on her breast, love reconciled,
He sleeps the faster that he wept before.

ELIZABETH BARRETT BROWNING.

GOD is the God of all comfort, into whose arms come those that weep, where He comforts them, even as a mother comforts her child. And the earth itself is rocked, as it were, by that same tending, nursing, loving God.

HENRY WARD BEECHER.

God loveth a cheerful giver. — 2 COR. ix. 7.

GIVE ! as the morning that flows out of heaven ;
Give ! as the waves when their channel is riven ;
Give ! as the free air and sunshine is given ;

Lavishly, utterly, joyfully give ; —

Not the waste drops of thy cup overflowing,
Not the faint sparks of thy hearth ever glowing,
Not a pale bud from the June roses blowing, —

Give as He gave thee, who gave thee to live !

ROSE TERRY COOKE.

WE are not at all sure that we shall have any possessions, anything of our own in the future life, — anything, consequently, to give away. Perhaps it will all belong to all. So let us have enough of giving while we can, and enjoy the best part of possession.

JEAN INGELow.

Teach me to do Thy will; for Thou art my God; Thy Spirit is good; lead me into the land of uprightness. — Ps. cxliii. 10.

THOUGH one but say
"Thy will be done,"
He hath not lost his day
At set of sun.

CHRISTINA G. ROSSETTI.

IT is not always easy to discern the will of God; but if the fountain of our life is kept pure, the water of life must flow from it and our day's work contribute to the great stream of life that flows out from the city of God for the healing of the nations; and in this stream all our own little trials get turned into gold.

HARRIET MONSELL.

Let us walk by the same rule, let us mind the same thing. — PHIL. iii. 16.

LIFE hath a load
Which must be carried on, and safely may,
Yet keep those cares without thee; let the heart
Be God's alone, and choose the better part.
Through all thy actions, counsels, and discourse,
Let mildness and religion guide thee out;
If truth be thine, what needs a brutish force?
But what's not good and just ne'er go about.

HENRY VAUGHAN.

ELIZABETH FRY drew up for her own guidance the following rules:—

1. Never lose any time. I do not think that lost which is spent in amusement or recreation every day; but always be in the act of being employed.

2. Never err the least in truth.

3. Never say an ill thing of a person when thou canst say a good thing of him: not only speak charitably but feel so.

4. Never be irritable or unkind to anybody.

5. Never indulge thyself in luxuries that are not necessary.

6. Do all things with consideration; and when thy path to act right is difficult put confidence in that Power alone which is able to assist thee, and exert thy own powers as far as they go.

Be ye kind one to another. — EPH. iv. 32.

A KINDLY act is a kernel sown,
That will grow to a goodly tree,
Shedding its fruit when time has flown
Down the gulf of eternity.

JOHN BOYLE O'REILLY.

ALL worldly joys go less
To the one joy of doing kindnesses.

GEORGE HERBERT.

OUR whole social life may be coined into utilities: not, to be sure, all of it into pounds and talents, but — what is of even more importance — into mites and farthings of considerate and unceasing kindness. We are constantly with recipient souls that take from us what will make them happier and better if we are truly meek and generous. And how many there are to whom in our intercourse little things are great! In our own households we may diffuse untold happiness by the unselfish spirit which is always ready to concede and slow to claim.

ANDREW P. PEABODY.

For all that is in the heaven and the earth is Thine. — I CHRON. xxix. 11.

THERE shall never be one lost good ! What was shall
live as before ;

The evil is null, is nought, is silence implying sound ;
What was good shall be good, with, for evil, so much
good more.

On the earth the broken arc ; in heaven the perfect
round.

ROBERT BROWNING.

NO good that has been truly meant, though
in the midst of mistakes, shall, in any
upshot of life, be utterly lost. In the end of
things the angels shall always come and gather
the wheat from among the tares.

ADELINE D. T. WHITNEY.

NO good deed, no genuine sacrifice, is ever
wasted. If there be good in it, God will use it
for His own holy purposes ; and whatever of
ignorance, or weakness, or mistake was mingled
with it will drop away, as the withered sepals
drop away when the full flower has blown.

FREDERIC W. FARRAR.

She hath done what she could. — MARK xiv. 8.

AND rank for her meant duty, various,
Yet equal in its worth, done worthily;
Command was service, humblest service done
By willing and discerning souls was glory.

GEORGE ELIOT.

THIS Bethany loyalty is the simple requirement of religion. Not one cent, not one moment, not one loving impulse, not one thought, not one syllable of a creed, more than comes within the range of your possibilities, is expected; but *all* of this is expected: nothing less will do. God asks for no more, but all this He does expect, and man has no right to evade it. Let duty be its own reward, love its own justification. “She hath done what she could,” — this is the fulness of the Christian excellence; it is the ultimate standard of religion.

JENKIN LLOYD JONES.

Blessed is the man whom Thou chasteneth, O Lord. — Ps. xciv. 12.

I KNOW that trial works for ends
Too high for sense to trace,
That oft in dark attire He sends
Some embassy of grace;
May none depart till I have gained
The blessing which it bears,
And learn, though late, I entertained
An angel unawares.

JAMES DRUMMOND BURNS.

BE not afraid of those trials which God may see fit to send upon thee. It is with the wind and storm of tribulation that God separates the true wheat from the chaff. Remember, therefore, that God comes to thee in thy sorrow as really as in thy joys. He lays low and He builds up. Thou wilt find thyself far from perfection if thou dost not find God in everything.

MIGUEL MOLINOS.

As many as walk according to this rule, peace be on them. — GAL. vi. 16.

THE highest culture is to speak no ill ;
The best reformer is the man whose eyes
Are quick to see all beauty and all worth,
And by his own discreet, well-ordered life,
Alone reproves the erring.

LIKE alone acts upon like. Therefore,* do not amend by reasoning, but by example ; approach feeling by feeling ; do not hope to excite love except by love. Be what you wish others to become. Let yourself and not your words preach.

HENRI FRÉDÉRIC AMIEL.

A MAN'S conduct is an unspoken sermon.

HENRI FRÉDÉRIC AMIEL.

Giving thanks always for all things. — EPH.
V. 20.

WHATSO it be, howso it be, Amen !

Blessed it is believing not to see :

Now God knows all that is ; and we shall then —

Whatso it be !

God's will is best for man, whose will is free ;

God's will is better to us, yea, than ten

Desires, whereof He holds and weighs the key —

.

He knows all wants, allots each where and when —

Whatso it be !

CHRISTINA G. ROSSETTI.

THOU alone knowest what is good for me ;
Thou alone art Lord of all ; do therefore
what seemeth to Thee best. Give to me or
take from me ; conform my will to Thine ; and
grant that with humble and perfect submission
and in holy confidence I may be disposed to
receive the orders of Thy eternal providence,
and may equally adore every dispensation which
shall come to me from Thy hand.

PASCAL.

It is a good thing to give thanks unto the Lord, and to sing praises unto Thy name, O Most High. — Ps. xcii. 1.

SEVEN whole days' not one in seven,
I will praise Thee;
In my heart, though not in heaven,
I can raise Thee.

Small it is, in this poor sort
To enroll Thee;
E'en eternity is too short
To extol Thee.

GEORGE HERBERT.

I THINK we are not as thankful as we ought to be; we are lacking in the spirit of praise. We are far too much given to complaints and wailings, and I do not think these can please our Holy Father. If you are seeking to help another here, are heaping benefits on any one, it is not cheering to listen to a ceaseless tissue of lamentations. God expects His blessings to be acknowledged, both temporal and spiritual.

ARCHER THOMPSON GURNEY.

Cast thy burden upon the Lord, and He shall sustain thee. — Ps. lv. 22.

CHILD of my love, lean hard,
And let me feel the pressure of thy care.
I know thy burden, child; I shaped it,
Poised it in mine own hand, and made no proportion
In its weight to thine unaided strength;
For even as I laid it on I said,
I shall be near, and while she leans on me
This burden shall be mine, not hers,
So shall I keep my child within the circling arms
Of mine own love. Here lay it down, nor fear
To impose it upon a shoulder which upholds
The government of worlds. Yet closer come,
Thou art not near enough; I would embrace thy care,
So I might feel my child reposing on my breast.
Thou lovest me? I know it. Doubt not then,
But loving me lean hard.

PAUL PASTNOR.

HE that takes his own cares upon himself
loads himself in vain with an uneasy
burden.

BISHOP HALL.

Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man. — COL. iv. 6.

GOVERN the lips
As they were palace doors, the king within ;
Tranquil and fair and courteous be all words
Which from that presence win.

EDWIN ARNOLD.

WEAR your velvet within ; show yourselves
amiable to those, above all, who live
with you.

JOSEPH JOUBERT.

HE who governs his tongue is perfectly able
to control all his passions.

WILLIAM ELLERY CHANNING.

These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. — REV. vii. 14.

CONSTANT sunshine, howe'er welcome,
Ne'er would ripen fruit or flower;
Giant oaks owe half their greatness
To the scathing tempest's power.

Human strength and human greatness
Spring not from life's sunny side;
Heroes must be more than drift-wood
Floating on a waveless tide.

ALL the difference there is between what looks like a worthless stone and a gem is in the cutting and grinding. All the difference between bullion and coin stamped with the king's face is in the smelting and the minting. All the difference between a wilderness and a garden is wrought by weeding and pruning. All the difference between a block of marble and a statue is produced by the mallet and the chisel. God has for us up yonder, by and by, I know not what noble ministries and what exalted places of beauty and of power. Since He knows what niche we are to fill, trust Him to shape us to it.

M. J. SAVAGE.

He that hath no rule over his own spirit is like a city that is broken down and without walls. — PROV. xxv. 28.

REAL glory

Springs from the quiet conquest of ourselves;
And without that the conqueror is nought
But the first slave.

THOMSON.

REST not in an ovation, but in a triumph
over thy passions. Let anger walk hanging down the head; let malice go manacled and envy fettered after thee. Behold within thee the whole train of thy trophies, not without thee. Chain up the unruly legion of thy breast, lead thine own captivity captive, and be Cæsar within thyself.

SIR THOMAS BROWNE.

He healeth the broken in heart, and bindeth up their wounds. — Ps. cxlvii. 3.

THEN sorrow, touched by Thee, grows bright
With more than rapture's ray,
As darkness shows us worlds of light
We never saw by day.

THOMAS MOORE.

WHEREIN is the blessedness of those that mourn? Christ says, in being comforted, in the victory of their faith, in the endurance of love, trust, and patience. Remember, until we are thus comforted in our hours of sorrow, we are not one with our Leader, nor in communion with our Father's Spirit. No one will suppose that the blessing of affliction consists in the suffering it brings. It consists in the spiritual response to suffering of one whose confidence is in the source of love.

JOHN HAMILTON THORN.

Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think anything as of ourselves ; but our sufficiency is of God. — 2 COR. iii. 5.

LEANING on Him, make with reverent meekness
His own thy will,
And with strength from Him shall thy utter weakness
Life's tasks fulfil.

JOHN GREENLEAF WHITTIER.

MOST beautiful when the strength is one of
humility instead of pride, and the trust
no more in the resolution we have taken, but
in the hand we hold.

JOHN RUSKIN.

LET me truly feel that in myself I am nothing, and at once through every inlet of my soul God comes in and is everything to me. And as soon as I feel this, the almightiness of God pours through my spirit like a stream, and I can do all things through Him that strengthens me.

WILLIAM MOUNTFORD.

See that ye refuse not Him that speaketh.—

HEB. xii. 25.

I HEAR it often in the dark,
I hear it in the light;
Where is the voice that calls to me
With such a quiet might?
It seems but echo to my thought,
And yet beyond the stars;
It seems a heart-beat in a hush,
And yet the planet jars!

WILLIAM CHANNING GANNETT.

PRECIOUS above the price of the whole
earth is every moment God speaks to
the soul.

EDWARD BOUVERIE PUSEY.

IF thou canst for awhile cease from thine
own speaking and willing, thou shalt hear un-
speakable words from God.

BEHMEN.

If ye fulfil the royal law according to the Scripture, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself, ye do well. — JAMES ii. 8.

AN arm of aid to the weak,
A friendly hand to the friendless,
Kind words so short to speak,
But whose echo is endless, —
The world is wide, these things are small,
They may be nothing, — but *they are all*.

LORD HOUGHTON.

LET the love of your brethren be as a fire within you, consuming that selfishness that is so contrary to it, and is so natural to men; let it set your thoughts on work to study how to do good to others; let your love be an active love, witnessing within you, and extending itself in doing good to the souls and bodies of your brethren as they need and you are able.

ARCHBISHOP LEIGHTON.

My peace I give unto you. — JOHN xiv. 27.

THEN leave thy vain attempts
To seek for peace;
The world can never give
One soul's release:
But in thy Saviour's heart
Securely dwell,
No pain can harm thee hid
In that sweet cell.

ADELAIDE ANNE PROCTER.

HE says Himself that His peace is not what the world giveth. It does not come from anything in this life; it cannot be taken away by anything in this life; it is wholly divine. As a white dove looks brighter and fairer against a black thunder-cloud, so Christ's peace is brightest and sweetest in darkness and adversity.

HARRIET BEECHER STOWE.

We then that are strong ought to bear the infirmities of the weak. — ROM. xv. 1.

ASK God to give thee skill
In comfort's art,
That thou mayst consecrated be,
And set apart
Unto a life of sympathy.
For heavy is the weight of ill
In every heart;
And comforters are needed much,
Of Christ-like touch.

ANNA E. HAMILTON.

THEY who have undergone and overcome stand with their keys to open the portals of life's great emergencies to their brethren. The wondrous power of experience! And see how beautiful and ennobling this makes our sorrows and temptations. Every stroke of sorrow that issues into light and joy is God putting into your hand the key of that sorrow, to unlock it for all the poor souls whom you may see approaching it through all your future life. It is a noble thing to take that key and use it.

PHILLIPS BROOKS.

Teach me to do Thy will, for Thou art my God. — Ps. cxliii. 10.

SMALL service is true service while it lasts,
Of friends, however humble, spurn not one,
The daisy, by the shadow that it casts,
Protects the lingering dew-drop from the sun.

WILLIAM WORDSWORTH.

WE can all be servants of God wherever
our lot is cast; but He gives us different
sorts of work, according as He fits us for it
and calls us to it.

GEORGE ELIOT.

SERVICE is our destiny in life or in death.
Then let it be my choice, living to serve the
living, and be fretted uncomplainingly. If I
can assure myself of doing service, I have my
home within.

GEORGE MEREDITH.

First the blade, then the ear, after that the full corn in the ear. — MARK iv. 28.

THEN bless thy secret growth, nor catch
At noise, but thrive unseen and dumb;
Keep clean, bear fruit, earn life, and watch,
Till the white-winged reapers come.

HENRY VAUGHAN.

THE Author and Giver of all good things expects us to grow and improve. He offers to increase in us true religion, to nourish us in all goodness. The gospel is a call to progress and improvement; it bids us never tire in our works of charity, but as fast as one kind purpose is accomplished set about another. Let charity, gentleness, and love be as the breath you draw.

JOHN KEBLE.

They helped every one his neighbor ; and every one said to his brother, Be of good courage. —

ISA. xli. 6.

WHEN no low thoughts of self intrude,
Angels adjust our rights ;
And love that seeks its selfish good
Dies in its own delights.
How much we take, how little give, —
Yet every life is meant
To help all lives ; each man should live
For all men's betterment.

ALICE CARY.

EVERY human being whom we approach
should be the better for us.

WILLIAM ELLERY CHANNING.

EACH of us is bound to make the small
circle in which he lives better and happier ;
each of us is bound to see that out of that
small circle the widest good may flow.

ARTHUR PENRHYN STANLEY.

What time I am afraid, I will trust in Thee. — Ps. lvi. 3.

NO night so wild but brings the constant sun,
With love and power untold;
No time so dark but through its woof there run
Some blessed threads of gold.

O Light Divine! We need no fuller test
That all is ordered well;
We know enough to trust that all is best
Where love and wisdom dwell.

CHRISTOPHER PEARSE CRANCH.

IT is the easiest thing in the world to obey God when He commands us to do what we like, and to trust Him when the path is all sunshine. The real victory of faith is to trust God in the dark and through the dark. Let us be assured of this, that if the lesson and the rod are of His appointing, and His all-wise love has engineered the tunnels of trial on the heavenward road, He will never desert us during the discipline. The vital thing for us is not to deny and desert Him.

THEODORE L. CUYLER.

Be clothed with humility. — I PET. v. 5.

HUMILITY, that low, sweet root,
From which all heavenly virtues shoot.

THOMAS MOORE.

LET one resolution be mine. Whatsoever else thou puttest on, be thou, O my soul, clothed with humility. Whatever else thou wearest, let this be the garment which wraps thee from head to foot, the nearest and closest of all. Exchange thou this for no other, though, to use the language of an Eastern sage, the mantle of Chosroes were offered thee in its stead.

RICHARD CHENEVIX TRENCH.

WOULDST thou taste to the full the sweetness of life? Then keep thyself low at humility's feet. The sweetest of the cane is the part that grows nearest the earth.

FEISI.

Tribulation worketh patience, and patience experience, and experience hope. — ROM. v. 3, 4.

Is the road very dreary ?

Patience yet !

Rest will be sweeter if thou art a-weary,

And after night cometh the morning cheery, —

Just bide a wee and dinna fret !

The clouds have silver lining,

Don't forget !

And though He's hidden, still the sun is shining,

Courage instead of tears and vain repining,

Just bide a wee and dinna fret !

“**B**E patient,” said a Scotchman, reprovingly,
to his little son.

“What is ‘to be patient,’ Father ?” inquired
the child.

“Bide a wee and dinna weary,” replied the
father, with a loving pressure on his shoulder.

How often God's restless children do not
wait, and how often they do weary in waiting !
Yet He is greatly honored by the trustful spirit,
that patiently resigns the unfolding of His in-
scrutable purposes into His hands ; for we know
that a meek and quiet spirit is in the sight of
God of great price.

ANNA SHIPTON.

*The Lord redeemeth the soul of His servants ;
and none of them that trust in Him shall be
desolate. — Ps. xxxiv. 22.*

AND so beside the silent sea
I wait the muffled oar ;
No harm from Him can come to me,
On ocean or on shore.

I know not where His islands lift
Their fronded palms in air ;
I only know I cannot drift
Beyond His love and care.

JOHN GREENLEAF WHITTIER.

TO trust is the longest step Godward that
any of us can take. We cannot by
searching find out God ; we can only put our-
selves where God can come to us. He who
trusts, who believes, knows God.

THEODORE T. MUNGER.

The Lord our God will we serve, and His voice will we obey. — JOSHUA xxiv. 24.

So nigh is grandeur to our dust,
So near is God to man,
When duty whispers low, "Thou must,"
The youth replies, "I can."

RALPH WALDO EMERSON.

WHEN in the crisis of your duty the way of peace and right summons you with its sweet compulsion, it is the call of the Eternal Right making itself heard in your waking soul. It is the summons of God through the voice of duty. Not far away lie the sources of religious trust; not in the evidences of the stars, or seas, or ancient man, but here amid the inevitable experiences of our daily mistakes, and of our sincere repentances. The life of God and the life of man are all interwoven in the web of human experiences.

FRANCIS G. PEABODY.

Speak unto the children of Israel, that they go forward. — Ex. xiv. 15.

THEREFORE think not the Past is wise alone,
For yesterday knows nothing of the Best,
And thou shalt love it only as the nest,
Whence glory-wingèd things to heaven have flown.

JAMES RUSSELL LOWELL.

LET us have done with vain regrets and longings for the days that will never be ours again. Our work lies in front, not behind us; and "forward" is our motto. Let us not sit with folded hands gazing upon the past as if it were the building; it is but the foundation. Let us not waste heart and life thinking of what might have been, and forgetting the "may be" that lies before us.

JEROME K. JEROME.

Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth. — Ps. cxxiv. 8.

I HEARD a voice, a tender voice, soft falling
Through the storm;
The waves were high, the bitter winds were calling,
Yet breathing warm

Of skies serene, of summer uplands lying
In peace beyond;
This tender voice, unto my voice replying,
Made answer fond.

Sometimes, indeed, like clash of armies meeting,
Arose the gale;
But over all that sweet voice kept repeating,
“ I shall not fail ! ”

NORA PERRY.

DOST thou not know that God is almighty?
Dost thou not know that unto God be-
longeth the kingdom of heaven and earth?
Neither have you any protector or helper ex-
cept God.

The Koran.

But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation. — 1 THESS. v. 8.

I WAKE this morn, and all my life
Is freshly mine to live;
The future with sweet promise rife,
And crowns of joy to give.

New words to speak, new thoughts to hear,
New love to give and take;
Perchance new burdens I may bear
For love's own sweetest sake.

EVERY day that is born into the world comes
like a burst of music, and rings itself all
the day through; and thou shalt make of it a
dance, a dirge, or a life march as thou wilt.

THOMAS CARLYLE.

Fear thou not, for I am with thee; be not dismayed, for I am thy God; I will strengthen thee, yea, I will help thee. — ISA. xli. 10.

O LOVE Divine, that stoop'st to share
Our sharpest pang, our bitterest tear,
On Thee we cast each earth-born care,
We fear no ill while Thou art near.

Though long the weary way we tread,
And sorrow crown each lingering year,
No path we shun, no darkness dread,
Our hearts still whispering, Thou art near.

OLIVER WENDELL HOLMES.

HE who never connects God with his daily life knows nothing of the spiritual meanings and uses of life; nothing of the calm, strong patience with which ills may be endured; of the gentle, tender comfort which the Father's love can minister; of the blessed rest to be realized in His forgiving love, His tender Fatherhood; of the deep, peaceful sense of the Infinite One ever near, a refuge and a strength.

FREDERIC W. FARRAR.

*Let us love one another, for love is of God ;
and every one that loveth is born of God, and
knoweth God. — 1 JOHN iv. 7.*

OUR God is love, and that which we miscall
Evil in this good world that He has made,
Is meant to be a little, tender shade
Between us and His glory, — that is all ;
And he who loves the best his fellow-man
Is loving God the holiest way he can.

ALICE CARY.

THE desire to be beloved is ever restless and
unsatisfied ; but the love that flows out
upon others is a perpetual well-spring from on
high.

LYDIA M. CHILD.

LOVE is God's loaf ; and this is that feeding
for which we are taught to pray.

HENRY WARD BEECHER.

Forgive, if ye have aught against any, that your Father also which is in heaven may forgive you. — MARK xi. 25.

GENTLY I took that which ungently came,
And without scorn forgave; do thou the same.
A wrong done to thee think a cat's-eye spark,
Thou wouldst not see were not thine own heart dark.

SAMUEL TAYLOR COLERIDGE.

DOES any man wound thee? Not only
forgive, but work into thy thought intelligence of the kind of pain, that thou mayst never inflict it on another spirit.

MARGARET FULLER.

LIFE appears to me too short to be spent in nursing animosity or registering wrong.

CHARLOTTE BRONTË.

*Blessed be he of the Lord, who hath not left
off his kindness. — RUTH ii. 20.*

NOR hath thy knowledge of adversity
Robbed thee of any faith in happiness,
But rather cleared thy inner eyes to see
How many simple ways there are to bless.

JAMES RUSSELL LOWELL.

IF we had lost our own chief good, other people's good would remain; and that is worth trying for. Some one can be happy. I seemed to see that more clearly than ever when I was wretched. I can hardly think how I could have borne the trouble if that feeling had not come to me to make strength.

GEORGE ELIOT.

My voice shalt Thou hear in the morning, O Lord. — Ps. v. 3.

LORD, in Thy light, oh, let me walk this day,
By Thy love prompted, act, and speak, and pray,
As a new creature it becomes to do,
Whose aim it is, in all his words and ways,
To set forth daily his Creator's praise,
And new in heart, in life be also new.

Lyra Domestica.

FROM the night our spirit awakeneth unto Thee, O God! for Thy precepts are a light unto us. Teach us, O God! Thy righteousness, Thy commandments, and Thy judgments. Enlighten the eyes of our mind that we sleep not in sin unto death. Drive away all darkness from our hearts. Vouchsafe us the Sun of righteousness. Guard our life from all reproach by the seal of Thy Holy Spirit. Guide our steps in the way of peace. Grant us to behold the dawn and the day with joyfulness, that we may send up our prayers to Thee at eventide.

THOMAS À KEMPIS.

Who hath despised the day of small things ? —

ZECH. iv. 10.

FREE men freely work,
Whoever fears God, fears to sit at ease.
. . . Let us be content in work
To do the thing we can, and not presume
To fret because it's little.

ELIZABETH BARRETT BROWNING.

BEGIN with small things. You cannot enter the presence of another human being without finding there more to do than you or I, or any soul, will ever learn to do perfectly before we die. Let us be content to do little, if God sets us at little tasks. It is but pride and self-will which says, "Give me something huge to fight, and I should enjoy that; but why make me sweep the dust?"

CHARLES KINGSLEY.

I am the Lord, I change not. — MAL. iii. 6.

LET nothing disturb thee,
Nothing affright thee;
All things are passing,
God never changeth.
Patient endurance
Attaineth to all things;
Who God possesseth,
In nothing is wanting;
Alone God sufficeth.

Santa Teresa's Bookmark.

LIFE passes, riches fly away, popularity is fickle, the senses decay, the world changes, friends die. One alone is constant; One alone is true to us; One alone can be true; One alone can be all things to us; One alone can supply our needs; One alone can train us up to our full perfection; One alone can give a meaning to our complex and intricate nature; One alone can give us tune and harmony; One alone can form and possess us. Are we allowed to put ourselves under His guidance? This surely is the only question.

JOHN HENRY NEWMAN.

Cause me to know the way wherein I should walk. — Ps. cxliii. 8.

THEN a voice within his breast
Whispered audible and clear,
As if to the outward ear,
“Do thy duty, that is best,
Leave unto thy Lord the rest.”

HENRY WADSWORTH LONGFELLOW.

KEEP close to duty. Never mind the future, if only you have peace of conscience ; if you feel yourself reconciled, and in harmony with the order of things. Be what you ought to be ; the rest is God's affair. It is for Him to know what is best.

HENRI FRÉDÉRIC AMIEL.

LET us stand by our duty, fearlessly and effectively.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

Great peace have they which love Thy law. —
Ps. cxix. 165.

DEAR Lord and God, incline
Thine ear unto my call !
O grant me that in all,
This will of mine
May still be one with Thine !

Teach me to answer still,
Whate'er my lot may be,
To all Thou sendest me
Of good or ill,
All goeth as God will.

ALICE WILLIAMS.

THE root of all dissatisfaction and discontent with self, and with one's surroundings, and with one's prospects, can never be reached until we go down to the will of God in our soul's birth and soul's mission, and make the discovery of that will for us, and the doing it our chief aim and hope. No change in life's circumstances, no larger work, no happier outlook will be enough. We ourselves need to be born again; it is not our outward life that needs to be refashioned.

NEWMAN SMYTH.

*Walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing,
being fruitful in every good work. — COL. i. 10.*

TRUE worth is in being, not seeming,
In doing each day that goes by
Some little good, not in dreaming
Of great things to do by and by.

ALICE CARY.

NOT what we think, but what we do,
Makes saints of us.

IBID.

YOU want to be true, and you are trying to be. Learn two things, — never to be discouraged because good things get on slowly here, and never fail daily to do that good which lies next your hand. Do not be in a hurry, but be diligent. Enter into that sublime patience of the Lord.

GEORGE MACDONALD.

It is God that girdeth me with strength, and maketh my way perfect. — Ps. xviii. 32.

EVEN as a nurse, whose child's imperfect pace
Can hardly lead his foot from place to place,
Leaves her fond kissing, sets him down to go,
Nor does uphold him for a step or two;
But when she finds that he begins to fall,
She holds him up and kisses him withal; —
So God from man sometimes withdraws His hand
Awhile to teach his infant faith to stand;
But when He sees his feeble strength begin
To fail, He gently takes him up again.

QUARLES.

WHEN the babe puts his little soft hand
into yours, his hand is as strong as
yours, since it is yours that guides it; so, when
we put our hand into God's, we are by His
grace as strong as He is, since He leads, and
we only follow.

HENRY WARD BEECHER.

*Rejoice in the Lord always ; and again I say,
Rejoice. — PHIL. iv. 4.*

FOR wisely the will of the Lord ordains
From hour to hour our pleasures and pains ;
The given pain brings a given might,
The given pleasure yields rare delight.
In the heart of man 't is the Spirit's voice
That crieth ever, " Rejoice ! Rejoice ! "
He shall cheerfully, gratefully, joyfully live,
Who taketh only what God doth give.

C. W. HARRIS.

TAKE thy self-denials gayly and cheerfully,
and let the sunshine of thy gladness fall
on dark things and bright alike, like the sun-
shine of the Almighty.

JAMES FREEMAN CLARKE.

Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. — MATT. xi. 28.

COME, said Jesus' sacred voice,
Come and make my paths your choice;
I will guide you to your home,
Weary pilgrim, hither come!

Sinners, come! for here is found
Balm that flows for every wound,
Peace that ever shall endure,
Rest eternal, sacred, sure.

ANNA LÆTITIA BARBAULD.

CHRIST'S invitation to the weary and heavy laden is a call to begin life over again upon a new principle. "Watch my way of doing things," He says; "follow me, take life as I take it; be meek and lowly,—and you will find rest."

HENRY DRUMMOND.

And there shall be no more death, neither sorrow nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain; for the former things are passed away. — REV. xxi. 4.

CAN the bonds that make us here
Know ourselves immortal,
Drop away, the foliage sear,
At life's inner portal?
What is holiest below
Must forever live and grow.

He who on our earthly path
Bids us help each other,
Who His Well-Beloved hath
Made our Elder Brother,
Will but clasp the chain of love
Closer, when we meet above.

LUCY LARCOM.

GOD did not create spirits, and endow them with a knowledge of Himself, to allow them to forget Him after a brief space. He did not unite souls by the spiritual bonds of love to separate them again forever.

ZSCHOKKE.

IN heaven hands clasp forever.

Greek Proverb.

Your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things. — MATT. vi. 32.

THE dear God hears and pities all;
He knoweth all our wants;
And what we blindly ask of Him,
His love withholds or grants.

And so I sometimes think our prayers
Might well be merged in one;
And nest and perch, and hearth and church
Repeat, "Thy will be done!"

JOHN GREENLEAF WHITTIER.

WHAT Christ's prayer was, all true prayer must be; you must pray with the great prayer in sight. You must feel the mountains above you while you work upon your little garden. Little by little your special wishes and the eternal will of God will grow in harmony with one another; all conflict will die away, and the great spiritual landscape from horizon to horizon will be but one.

LUCY LARCOM.

It is more blessed to give than to receive. —
ACTS xx. 35.

THE heart grows rich in giving,
All its wealth is living grain,
Seeds, which mildew in the garden,
Scattered, fill with gold the plain.
Is thy burden hard and heavy?
Do thy steps drag wearily?
Help to bear thy brother's burden, —
God will bear both it and thee.

EVERY good act is charity. Putting a wanderer in the right way is charity. Removing stones and thorns from the road is charity. Smiling in your brother's face is charity.

MAHOMET.

TO him who gives but a drop of water to the poor unselfishly, it will be a living fountain in paradise. Therefore seek to mingle with the poor, the weak, the broken-hearted, that thou be not too great a stranger to some of the angels who will greet thee in heaven.

*And let us not be weary in well doing ; for
in due season we shall reap if we faint not. —*
GAL. vi. 9.

A COMMONPLACE life we say, and we sigh ;
But why should we sigh as we say ?
The commonplace sun in the commonplace sky
Make up the commonplace day :
The moon and the stars are commonplace things,
And the flower that blooms, and the bird that sings ;
But dark were the world and sad our lot,
If the flowers failed and the sun shone not ;
And God, who studies each separate soul,
Out of commonplace lives makes His beautiful whole.
SUSAN COOLIDGE.

THE course of life is a thousand trifles, then
some crisis, and again a thousand trifles
and a crisis ; nothing but green leaves under
common sun and shadow ; and then a storm
or a rare June day. And far more than the
storm or the perfect day the common sun and
common shadow do to make the autumn rich.
It is the "every days" that count. They must
be made to tell, or the years have failed.

WILLIAM CHANNING GANNETT.

Draw nigh to God, and He will draw nigh to you. — JAMES iv. 8.

DEAR Father, when we call on Thee,
Bow down Thy gracious ear;
Our hearts would fall us, Lord, indeed,
If Thou refused to hear.

HEAVEN is never deaf but when man's
heart is dumb.

QUARLES.

THE action of prayer is as though there were a chain of light let down from the heights of heaven and reaching to earth, and as we grasp it first with the one hand and then with the other, we seem to draw it to us, while really we are raised by it to the loftier splendor of the light; or as though we were on ship-board, and straining at a rope fastened to a rock and thrown out to help us. We do not draw the rock to ourselves, but ourselves and ship to the rock.

DIONYSIUS the Areopagite.

Therefore for Thy name's sake lead me and guide me. — Ps. xxxi. 3.

MY Father, God, lead on !
Calmly I follow where Thy guiding hand
Directs my steps ; I would not trembling stand,
Though all before the way
Is dark as night ; I stay
My soul on Thee, and say,
Father, I trust Thy love, lead on !

R. PALMER.

ALL virtue consists in having a willing heart ; God will lead you as if by the hand, if only you do not doubt, and are filled with love for Him rather than fear for yourself.

FÉNELON.

Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ. — GAL. vi. 2.

WHAT is the real good ?
I asked in musing mood.
Order, said the law-court ;
Knowledge, said the school ;
Truth, said the wise man ;
Pleasure, said the fool ;
Love, said the maiden ;
Beauty, said the page ;
Freedom, said the dreamer ;
Home, said the sage ;
Fame, said the soldier ;
Equity, the seer :—
Spake my heart full sadly,
“ The answer is not here.”
Then within my bosom,
Softly this I heard,
“ Each heart holds the secret,
Kindness is the word ! ”

JOHN BOYLE O'REILLY.

BUT now God has so ordained it that we should learn to bear one another's burdens, for there is no one who has not some defect, no one without some burden, no one independent of others, no one wise enough of himself ; but we ought to bear with one another, comfort one another, help, instruct, and advise one another.

THOMAS À KEMPIS.

God is with thee in all that thou doest.—

GEN. xxi, 22.

To duty firm, to conscience true,
However tried and pressed;
In God's clear sight high work we do,
If we but do our best.

LET this day's performance of the meanest
duty be thy religion.

MARGARET FULLER.

FOLLOW duty if you would know the
Christ-like calm in the presence of wrong;
follow duty if you would change resentment
into patience, resistance into forgiveness. Duty
is the great mountain road to God.

JENKIN LLOYD JONES.

Many waters cannot quench love, neither can the floods drown it. — SONG OF SOLOMON viii. 7.

GOD scatters love on every side
Freely among His children all,
And always hearts are lying open wide,
Wherein some grains may fall.

JAMES RUSSELL LOWELL.

THE Maker has linked together the whole race of man with this chain of love. I like to think that there is no man but has had kindly feelings for some other, and he for his neighbor, until we bind together the whole family of Adam. Nor does it end here; it joins heaven and earth together. If identity survives the grave, as our faith tells us, is it not a consolation to think that there may be one or two souls among the purified and just whose affection watches us invisible, and follows the poor sinner on earth?

WILLIAM MAKEPEACE THACKERAY.

In Thy light shall we see light. — Ps. xxxvi. 9.

WE older children grope our way
From dark behind to dark before;
And only when our hands we lay,
Dear Lord, in Thine, the night is day,
And there is darkness nevermore.

Reach downward to the sunless days,
Wherein our guides are blind as we,
And faith is small and hope delays;
Take Thou the hands of prayer we raise,
And let us feel the light of Thee !

JOHN GREENLEAF WHITTIER.

A MAN who looks toward the light sees no shadow ; a man who walks toward the light leaves darkness behind him. People get in darkness by turning away from the light. They hide in obscure corners ; they bury themselves in nooks, where the Sun of righteousness cannot reach them ; they close their blinds and shutters, and wonder that they have no light. A house may be dark, but it is not the fault of the sun. A soul may be dark, but it is not because the Light of the World does not shed beams abroad.

ARMORY.

Thanks be unto God for His unspeakable gift. — 2 COR. ix. 15.

BUT O Thou bounteous giver of all good !
Thou art of all Thy gifts Thyself the crown ;
Give what Thou canst, without Thee we are poor,
And with Thee rich, take what Thou wilt away.

WILLIAM COWPER.

GOD is continually giving. He will not withhold from you or me. I hold up my little cup, and He fills it full. If yours is greater, rejoice in that, and bring it to the same urn. Were your little cup to become as large as the Pacific Sea, He still would fill it.

THEODORE PARKER.

Every purpose of the Lord shall be performed. — JER. li. 29.

AT best our least endeavor
Must faint and fail forever,
Without God's guiding finger to point the how or where :
Then let us choose His choosing,
All selfish choice refusing,
Nor question which is better to serve Him here or there.
MARGARET J. PRESTON.

TO wish to serve Him in one place rather than in another, by such and such a way, and not by the opposite one, is to wish to serve Him in our own way and not in His. But to be equally ready for all things, to accept everything and reject nothing, to leave one's self like a toy in the hands of Providence, — this is serving Him by renouncing self, this is treating Him truly as God, and ourselves as creatures made only for Him.

FÉNELON.

He that loveth not knoweth not God, for God is love. — 1 JOHN iv. 8.

YET while I love, say God the most, I deem
That I can never love you overmuch ;
I love Him more, so let me love you too ;
Yea, as I apprehend it, love is such
I cannot love you if I love not Him,
I cannot love Him if I love not you.

CHRISTINA G. ROSSETTI.

LOVE to the Lord cannot possibly exist apart from neighborly love. For the Lord's love is love to the whole human race, which He desires to save eternally, and to adjoin entirely to Himself, so as for none of them to perish. Wherefore, whosoever has love to the Lord has the Lord's love, and cannot help loving his neighbor.

EMANUEL SWEDENBORG.

Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on Thee; because he trusteth in Thee. — ISA. xxvi. 3.

OH, this is blessing, this 'is rest !
Into Thine arms, O Lord, I flee;
I hide me in Thy faithful breast,
And pour out all my soul to Thee.
O tenderness ! O truth divine !
Lord, I am altogether Thine.
I have bowed down, — I need not flee, —
Peace, peace is mine in trusting Thee !

ANNA LÆTITIA WARING.

PLACE your whole trust in the Lord; let Him alone be your fear and your love. He Himself will answer for you, and will do what is best for you. Here you have “no continuing city,” and wherever you are you are a stranger and a pilgrim; nor will you ever find rest until you are inwardly united to Christ.

THOMAS À KEMPIS.

Blessed is the man whom Thou chastenest, O Lord, and teachest him out of Thy law.—Ps. xciv. 12.

DO not cheat thy heart, and tell her,
“ Grief will pass away ;
Hope for fairer things to-morrow,
And forget to-day.”
Tell her, if you will, that sorrow
Need not come in vain ;
Tell her that the lesson taught her
Far outweighs the pain.

ADELAIDE ANNE PROCTER.

IT would be a poor result of all our anguish and our wrestling if we won nothing but our old selves at the end of it ; if we could return to the same blind loves, the same self-confident blame, the same light thoughts of human suffering, the same frivolous gossip over blighted human lives, the same feeble sense of the Unknown, toward which we have sent forth irrepressible cries in our loneliness. Let us rather be thankful that our sorrow lives in us as an indestructible force, only changing its form as forces do, and passing from pain into sympathy.

GEORGE ELIOT.

For the Lord God will help me. — ISA. l. 7.

BE but faithful, that is all ;
Go right on, and close behind thee
There shall follow still, and find thee,
Help, sure help !

ARTHUR HUGH CLOUGH.

WHAT I can do with my single arm may be mean enough ; but that is not the question. The thing to consider is, what can I do with God to help me ? And the difference of the one and the other is the difference between a man trying to push a train of cars up grade by his single puny strength, and the same man on a locomotive with the steam up, moving the whole mass by a turn of the wrist.

ROBERT COLLYER.

And now I exhort you to be of good cheer. —

ACTS xxvii. 22.

MAKE me as one that casteth not by day
A dreary shadow, but reflecting aye
One little beam, loved, warmed, and golden, caught
From the bright sun that lights our daily way.

YOU find yourself refreshed by the presence of cheerful people; why not make earnest efforts to confer that pleasure on others? You will find half the battle is gained if you will never allow yourself to say anything gloomy.

LYDIA M. CHILD.

Give me thine heart. — PROV. xxiii. 26.

WHAT can I give Him,
Poor as I am ?
If I were a shepherd,
I would bring a lamb ;
If I were a wise man,
I would do my part ;
Yet what can I give Him ? —
Give my heart.

CHRISTINA G. ROSSETTI.

O LORD ! take my heart, for I cannot give it ; and when Thou hast it, oh, keep it ! for I cannot keep it for Thee ; and save me in spite of myself, for Jesus Christ's sake.

FÉNELON.

Make sure thy friend. — PROV. vi. 3.

BELIEVE me better than my best,
And stronger than my strength can hold,
Until your royal faith transmutes
My pebbles into gold.

ELIZABETH STUART PHELPS.

TO win and hold a friend, we are compelled to keep ourselves at his ideal point, and in turn our love makes on him the same appeal. All around the circle of our best beloved, it is this idealizing that gives to love its beauty, and its pain, and its mighty leverage on character,—its beauty, because that idealizing is the secret of love's glow; its pain, because that idealizing makes the constant peril of its vanishing; its leverage to uplift character, because this same idealizing is a constant challenge between every two, compelling each to be his best. "What is the secret of your life?" asked Mrs. Browning of Charles Kingsley; "tell me, that I may make mine beautiful too." He replied, "I had a friend."

WILLIAM CHANNING GANNETT.

Love is the fulfilling of the law. — ROM. xiii. 10.

AND see how everywhere
Love comforts, strengthens, helps, and saves us all;
What opportunities of good befall
To make life sweet and fair.

CELIA THAXTER.

OH! let us not wait to be just or pitiful or demonstrative toward those we love until they or we are struck down by illness, or threatened with death. Life is short, and we have never too much time for gladdening the hearts of those who are travelling the dark journey with us. Oh! be swift to love, make haste to be kind.

HENRI FRÉDÉRIC AMIEL.

For, lo, the winter is past, the rain is over and gone; the flowers appear on the earth, the time of the singing of birds is come.—SONG OF SOLOMON ii. 11, 12.

THE year's at the spring,
And day's at the morn;
Morning's at seven;
The hill-side's dew-pearled;
The lark's on the wing;
The snail's on the thorn;
God's in His heaven;
All's right with the world.

ROBERT BROWNING.

THAT is not an enviable nature that hears no strange melodies hinting of heaven through the marches of the year; that sees no glorious signs hung out on earth and sky of an infinite love that is never forgetful and never unkind; that pauses not with reverent spirit to ponder the lesson that is told in grass and tree and flower; and that feels no benediction in the bright air and palpitating sky. He may be just to his neighbor, industrious and virtuous; but he does not understand the meaning of Jesus in the fields of Galilee, pointing to the birds and lilies, and telling of our Father's care.

HORATIO N. POWERS.

Blessed are they that mourn, for they shall be comforted. — MATT. v. 4.

OH, deem not they are blest alone
Whose lives a peaceful tenor keep;
The Power who pities man has shown
A blessing for the eyes that weep.

For God hath marked each sorrowing day,
And numbered every secret tear;
And heaven's long age of bliss shall pay
For all His children suffer here.

WILLIAM CULLEN BRYANT.

GOD washes the eyes by tears until they
can behold the invisible land where tears
shall come no more. O Love! O Affliction!
ye are the guides that show us the way through
the great airy space where our loved ones
walked. God teaches us, while yet our sor-
row is wet, to follow on and find our dear ones
in heaven.

HENRY WARD BEECHER.

He will be very gracious unto thee at the voice of thy cry. — ISA. xxx. 19.

FATHER ! before Thy footstool kneeling,
Once more my heart goes up to Thee;
For aid, for strength, to Thee appealing,
Thou who alone canst succor me.

And oh ! in my exceeding weakness,
Make Thy strength perfect ; Thou art strong !
Aid me to do Thy will with meekness,
Thou to whom all my powers belong.

THERE is no good in praying for anything, unless you will also try for it. All the sighs and supplications in the world will not bring wisdom to the heart that fills itself with folly every day, or mercy to the soul that sinks itself in sin, or usefulness and honor to the life that wastes itself in vanity and inanity.

HENRY J. VAN DYKE.

*Watch therefore ; for ye know not what hour
your Lord doth come. — MATT. xxiv. 42.*

THINK not I dread to see my spirit fly
Through the dark gates of fell mortality;
Death has no terrors when the life is true;
'T is living ill that makes us fear to die.

OMAR KHAYYÁM.

WHEN the hour of death comes, — that
comes to high and low alike, — then
it's na what we hae dune for ourselves, but
what we hae dune for others that we think on
maist pleasantly.

SIR WALTER SCOTT.

WHEN a man dies, they who survive him
ask what property he has left behind. The
angel who bends over the dying man asks
what good deeds he has sent before him.

The Koran.

*I have learned in whatsoever state I am,
therewith to be content. — PHIL. iv. 11.*

BUT those that are contented,
However things do fall,
Much anguish is prevented,
And they soon freed from all.
They finish all their labors
With much felicity;
Their joy in trouble savors
Of perfect piety.

ANNE COLLINS.

THE fountain of content must spring up in the mind; and she who has so little knowledge of human nature as to seek happiness by changing anything but her own disposition, will waste her life in fruitless efforts, and multiply the griefs which she proposes to remove.

BEN JONSON.

The Lord thy God, He it is that doth go with thee ; He will not fail thee, nor forsake thee. —

DEUT. xxxi. 6.

YET if we will one Guide obey,
The dreariest path, the darkest way,
Shall issue out in heavenly day ;

And we, on divers shores now cast,
Shall meet, our perilous voyage past,
All in our Father's house at last.

RICHARD CHENEVIX TRENCH.

SO long as our existence lasts, we must not give up the duty of cheerfulness and hope. He who has guided us through the day, will guide us through the night also. The pillar of darkness often turns into a pillar of fire. Have patience and perseverance ; believe that there is still a future before us, and we shall at last reach the haven where we would be.

ARTHUR PENRHYN STANLEY.

Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus. — PHIL. ii. 5.

TEACH me, then,
To harmonize the discord of my life,
And stop the painful jangle of these wires.
That is a task impossible, until
You tune your heart-strings to a higher key
Than earthly melodies.

LONGFELLOW : *Michael Angelo.*

WE cannot gather too much of the Christian spirit, — the spirit of forbearance and peace and sacrifice ; the spirit of brotherhood and charity ; the spirit of purity and devotion to Him through whom come all that renders life noble and true.

HORATIO N. POWERS.

See that none render evil for evil unto any man; but ever follow that which is good.—

1 THESS. v. 15.

THE fairest action of our human life
Is scorning to revenge an injury :
He who forgives without a further strife,
His adversary's heart to him doth tie ;
And 't is a firmer conquest, truly said,
To win the heart than overthrow the head.

LADY ELIZABETH CAREW.

HATH any wronged thee? Be bravely re-
venged ; slight it, and the work 's begun ;
forgive it, 't is finished : he is below himself
that is not above an injury.

QUARLES.

A MORE glorious victory cannot be gained
over another than this, that when the injury
began on his part, the kindness should begin
on ours.

TILLOTSON.

In Thy presence is fulness of joy. — Ps. xvi. 11.

O FRIEND of souls ! 't is well with me
 Whene'er Thy love my spirit calms ;
From sorrow's dungeon forth I flee,
 And hide me in Thy sheltering arms.
The night of weeping flies away
Before the heart-reviving ray
 Of love that beams from out Thy breast ;
Here is my heaven on earth begun ;
Who were not joyful had he won
 In Thee, O God ! his joy and rest.

WOLFGANG DERSLER.

WE can even here be with God, so long as we bear God within us. We should be able to see without sadness our most holy wishes fade away like sun-flowers, because the sun above us still forever beams, eternally makes new and cares for all. And we must not so much prepare for eternity as plant eternity in our hearts, — eternity serene and pure, full of depth, full of light and of all else.

JEAN PAUL RICHTER.

Surely the Lord is in this place, and I knew it not. — GEN. xxviii. 16.

SINCE God doth will that some shall dwell at ease,
And others shall know hardness; this is sure,
The lot that fits each nature He foresees;
And wherefore murmur when we must endure?
Some day His loving wisdom will be plain
As the sweet sunshine following after rain.

MARY BRADLEY.

DO not despise your situation; in it you must act, suffer, and conquer. From every point on earth we are equally near to heaven and to the Infinite.

HENRI FRÉDÉRIC AMIEL.

ACCEPT your lot as a man does a piece of rugged ground, and begin to get out the rocks and roots, to deepen and mellow the soil, to enrich and plant it.

HENRY WARD BEECHER.

And the Lord shall help them, and deliver them . . . because they trust in Him. — Ps. xxxvii. 40.

BE bounteous in thy faith, for not misspent
Is confidence unto the Father lent ;
Thy need is sown and rooted for His rain.
His thoughts are as thine own ; nor are His ways
Other than thine, but by their loftier sense
Of beauty infinite and love intense.
Work on. One day, beyond all thought of praise,
A sunny joy will crown thee with its rays ;
Nor other than thy need and recompense.

GEORGE MACDONALD.

HAVE faith in God, think noble things of
God ; be sure that trust in the righteous
God means the ultimate triumph of good over
evil.

FREDERIC W. FARRAR.

Lord, increase our faith. — LUKE xvii. 5.

THE billows swell, the winds are high,
Clouds overcast my wintry sky;
Out of the depths to Thee I call, —
My fears are great, my strength is small.

O Lord ! the pilot's part perform,
And guard and guide me through the storm,
Defend me from each threatening ill,
Control the waves, say, "Peace, be still."

WILLIAM COWPER.

IF, like Peter, we fix our eyes on Jesus, we too may walk triumphantly over the swelling waves of disbelief, and untterrified amid the rising winds of doubt; but if we turn our eyes away from Him in whom we have believed, if, as is so easy to do, and as we are so much tempted to do, we look rather at the power of those terrible and destructive elements than at Him who can help and save, — then we too shall inevitably sink.

FREDERIC W. FARRAR.

Thou wilt show me the path of life; in Thy presence is fulness of joy. — Ps. xvi. 11.

I NEED Thy presence every passing hour;
What but Thy grace can foil the tempter's power?
Who like Thyself my guide and stay can be?
Through cloud and sunshine, oh, abide with me!

HENRY F. LYTE.

YOU remember the old story of how Michael Angelo wore ever on his forehead, fastened in his artist's cap, a lighted candle, which always shone brightly on his work, and kept his shadow from falling on it. If I could always have thus the light of Christ's felt presence ever falling onwards on my path, keeping the shadow of self behind and out of sight, ah, what an easy climb it would be then!

In the Mists.

According to the eternal purpose. — EPH.
iii. 11.

ONE small life in God's great plan,
How futile it seems as the ages roll !
Do what it may, or strive how it can,
To alter the sweep of the infinite whole ;
A single stitch in an endless web,
A drop in the ocean's flow and ebb.
But the pattern is rent where the stitch is lost,
Or marred where the tangled threads have crossed ;
And each life that fails of its true intent
Mars the perfect plan that its Master meant.

SUSAN COOLIDGE.

REMEMBER that you are an actor of just such a part as is assigned you by the poet of the play : of a short part, if the part be short ; of a long part, if the part be long. Should he wish you to act the part of a beggar, take care to act it naturally and nobly ; and the same if it be the part of a lame man or a ruler. For this is in your power, to act well the part assigned to you ; but to choose that part is the function of another.

EPICETUS.

For what dost thou make request? — NEH. ii. 4.

OH, let me feel Thee ever nigh me !
And seek Thy smile all gifts above ;
No good thing will Thy grace deny me, —
The object of Thy changeless love.

ANNA SHIPTON.

IF we pray for any earthly blessing, we must pray for it solely “if it be God’s will,” “if it be for our highest good ;” but for the best things we may pray without reservation, certain that if we ask, God will grant them. No man ever yet asked to be, as the days pass by, more and more noble, and sweet and pure and heavenly-minded ; no man ever yet prayed that the evil spirits of hatred and pride and passion and worldliness might be cast out of his soul — without his petition being granted, and granted to the letter.

FREDERIC W. FARRAR.

Therefore will not we fear. — Ps. xlv. 2.

I SEE the germ to the sunlight reach,
And the nestlings know the old bird's speech;
I do not see who is there to teach.

I see the hare from the danger hide,
And the stars through the pathless spaces ride;
I do not see that they have a guide.

He is eyes for all who is eyes for the mole,
All motion goes to the rightful goal;
O God! I can trust for the human soul.

CHARLES G. AMES.

THE providence of God, that cares for the universe as a whole, that takes it at the beginning and holds it to the consummation, that we cannot see or know, that we can only dimly guess, — this same mighty, all-grasping order of God's providence considers my affairs; not simply nations, not simply cities, not simply families, but you and me, the leaf on the tree, the bird that sings on the bough, the flower that springs out of the sod.

M. J. SAVAGE.

The poor always ye have with you. — JOHN
xii. 8.

OUR Lord and Master
When He departed left us in His will
As our best legacy on earth, the poor :
These we have always with us ; had we not,
Our hearts would grow as hard as are the stones.

THE poor are always with us. The wayfarers come to us continually, and they do not come by chance. God sends them. And as they come, with their white faces and their poor, scuffling feet, they are our judges. Not merely by whether we give, but by how we give, and by what we give, they judge us. Thank God ! there are some men and women, full of the power of the gospel, who cannot rest satisfied till they have opened their very hearts, and given the poor wayfaring men the only thing which is really their own, — themselves, their faith, their energy, their hope of God.

PHILLIPS BROOKS.

*I must work the works of Him that sent me,
while it is day; the night cometh, when no man
can work. — JOHN ix. 4.*

REST not content in thy darkness, a clod;
Work for some good, be it ever so slowly;
Cherish some flower, be it ever so lowly;
Labor! — all labor is noble and holy;
Let thy great deeds be thy prayer to thy God.

FRANCES S. OSGOOD.

REMEMBER now and always that life is no
idle dream, but a solemn reality, based
upon eternity and encompassed by eternity.
Find out your task, stand to it; for the night
cometh, when no man can work.

THOMAS CARLYLE.

Him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out. — JOHN vi. 37.

THE beckoning of a Father's hand we follow, —
His love alone is there,
No curse, no care.

EDWARD ROWLAND SILL.

THE painter smiled at her in return, and said, "Had you any children in the old time?"

She paused a little before she replied: "I had children in love, but none that were born mine."

"It is the same," he said, — "it is the same; and if one of them had sinned against you, injured you, done wrong in any way, would you have cast him off, or what would you have done?"

"Oh!" said the little Pilgrim again, with a vivid light of memory coming into her face, which showed she had no need to think of this as something that might have happened, but knew, "I brought him home; I nursed him well again; I prayed for him night and day. Did you say 'cast him off,' when he had most need of me? Then I never could have loved him."

"Then you think you love better than our Father," he said.

M. O. W. OLIPHANT.

Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good. — ROM. xii. 21.

THE common problem, yours, mine, every one's,
Is, not to fancy what were fair in life,
Provided it could be, but finding first
What may be, then find how to make it fair.

ROBERT BROWNING.

THIS world is a world of men, and these
men are our brothers. We must not
banish from us the divine breath; we must
love. Evil must be conquered by good; and
before all things, one must keep a pure
conscience.

HENRI FRÉDÉRIC AMIEL.

Be strong, and quit yourselves like men.—

I SAM. iv. 9.

OH, this battle-field vast of the world,
This trample and rush of the foe,
This guage that forever is hurled,
This ceaseless recoil of the blow.

This stringent command of the King,
Proclaimed through His armaments wide,
That none of His soldiers shall fling
Their armor one moment aside.

MARGARET J. PRESTON.

LIFE is not victory, but battle. Fight on, fight on! The perfect character shall come at last. What will it be to fight no more? Shall we then forget the battles? Shall we then forget our sins? Why should we? Hated, renounced, subdued, let them hang on the walls of memory like the shields of vanquished enemies. Be patient a little longer. By and by in our hushed and waiting chambers, each in his turn, we shall hear the sunset gun.

ROSWELL DWIGHT HITCHCOCK.

Blessed are they that do His commandments. —
REV. xxii. 14.

MORTAL, that standest on a point of time,
With an eternity on either hand,
Thou hast one duty above all sublime,
Where thou art placed serenely there to stand.
LORD HOUGHTON.

WE did not come to our work by accident.
We did not choose it for ourselves ; but
under much which may wear the appearance
of accident and self-choosing, came to it by
God's leading and appointment. How will
this consideration help us to appreciate justly
the dignity of our work, though it were far
humbler work, even in the eyes of men, than
that of any of us here.

RICHARD CHENEVIX TRENCH.

God shall supply all your need. — PHIL. iv. 19.

I LOOK to Thee in every need,
And never look in vain;
I feel Thy touch, Eternal Love,
And all is well again;
The thought of Thee is mightier far
Than sin and pain and sorrow are.

Discouraged in the work of life,
Disheartened by its load,
Shamed by its failures or its fears,
I sink beside the road;
But let me only think of Thee,
And then new heart springs up in me.

SAMUEL LONGFELLOW.

THY God shall supply every need. Here is a key to open every door before which we pause, saying, "How shall I get through?" — a mighty master-key for the regions of Giant Despair, for every lock in Doubting Castle. "I have a key in my bosom called Promise," said Hopeful; and he had forgotten to take it out.

ANNA B. WARNER.

Who giveth songs in the night. — JOB xxxv. 10.

TO weary hearts that rest on Thee,
Thy tenderest love is shown;
And Thou hast many hidden joys
And comforts for Thine own,
And fountains of reviving strength
The world has never known.

T. H. M.

ANY man can sing by day; but only he whose heart has been tuned by the gracious hand of Jehovah can sing in the darkness. The things of earth may satisfy for the hours of prosperity; but only the peace of God can give gladness in the darkness of adversity. God gives joy in sorrow; and when the sad one sings through his tears, then the Lord comes out to him with new and more tender assurances, so that by his very hymn he is made more gladsome. That which is born of trust rises into rapture.

WILLIAM M. TAYLOR.

The merciful man doeth good to his own soul. — PROV. xi. 17.

THE quality of mercy is not strain'd;
It droppeth as the gentle dew from heaven
Upon the place beneath; it is twice blessed, —
It blesseth him that gives and him that takes.

SHAKESPEARE.

WE are unmerciful when without necessity we are judges of evil thoughts, when we suspect meanness, littleness, untruthfulness — not to speak of worse surmisings — in others. The merciful in thought give no room in their hearts for suspicions such as these. They do not secretly impute evil.

RICHARD CHENEVIX TRENCH.

He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much. — LUKE xvi. 10.

THINK naught a trifle, though it small appear ;
Small sands the mountains, moments make the year,
And trifles life.

YOUNG.

ACCURATE and careful detail, the minding of the common occasions and small things, combined with general scope and vigor, is the secret of all the efficiency and success in the world. It is only thus that any disciple will become efficient in the service of his Master. He cannot do up his works of usefulness by the prodigious stir and commotion of a few extraordinary occasions. Laying down great plans, he must accomplish them by great industry, by minute attention, by working out his way as God shall assist him.

HORACE BUSHNELL.

Wherefore, beloved . . . be diligent that ye may be found of Him in peace, without spot, and blameless. — 2 PET. iii. 14.

THOU must be true thyself,
If thou the truth would'st teach;
Thy soul must overflow, if thou
Another's soul would'st reach;
It needs the overflow of heart
To give the lips full speech.

Think truly, and thy thoughts
Shall the world's famine feed;
Speak truly, and each word of thine
Shall be a fruitful seed;
Live truly, and thy life shall be
A great and noble creed.

HORATIUS BONAR.

WE know no truth except by action. We can teach no vital truth except through the life. We cannot attain to the eternal joy, except as we walk step by step in the path of actual duty and performance in which He walked, who so gained its fulness, and sat down at the right hand of the Father.

THEODORE S. MUNGER.

Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous ; nevertheless afterwards it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby. — HEB. xii. 11.

THEN tremble not and shrink not,
When Disappointment nears ;
Be trustful still, and think not
To realize all fears ;
While we are meekly kneeling,
We shall behold her rise —
Our Father's love revealing —
An angel in disguise.

FRANCES RIDLEY HAVERGAL.

LIFE is God's plan, not ours. For often on the ruins of visionary hope rises the kingdom of our substantial possessions and our true peace ; and under the shadow of earthly disappointment, all unconsciously to ourselves, our divine Redeemer is walking by our side.

CHAPIN.

DISAPPOINTMENTS are wings that bear the soul skyward.

Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need. — HEB. iv. 16.

OF what an easy, quick access,
My blessed Lord, art Thou ! how suddenly
May our requests Thine ear invade !
To show that state dislikes not easiness,
If I but lift mine eyes my suit is made ;
Thou canst no more *not* hear than Thou canst die.

GEORGE HERBERT.

PRAYER is a key which, being turned by
the hand of faith, unlocks all God's
treasures.

HANNAH MORE.

I will lay down my life for thy sake. — JOHN
xiii. 37.

MANY loved Truth, and lavished life's best oil
Amid the dust of books to find her,
Content at last, for guerdon of their toil,
With the cast mantle she hath left behind her.
Many in sad faith sought for her,
Many with crossed hands sighed for her;
But these, our brothers, fought for her,
At life's dear peril wrought for her,
So loved her that they died for her.

JAMES RUSSELL LOWELL.

THE seeds of truth sown by great and loyal
men bear fruit through all the years to
be. To have lived and labored and died for
the right, nothing can be sublimer.

*The Lord will give strength unto His people ;
the Lord will bless His people with peace. — Ps.
xxix. 11.*

LO ! fainter now lie spread the shades of night,
And upward shoot the trembling gleams of morn ;
Suppliant we bend before the Lord of light,
And pray at early dawn, —

That His sweet charity may all our sin
Forgive, and make our miseries to cease ;
May grant us health, grant us the gift divine
Of everlasting peace.

Breviary (trans. by Edward Caswall).

THERE is indeed a peace on earth ; but it is not the peace of inaction, of prosperity. It is the peace of him who accepts the condition on which life is given, who girds himself for the conflict, who has a clear, strong faith that conflict is wisely ordered, and who has an earnest in the energy it calls forth of the perfection of his soul and the triumph of a higher world.

WILLIAM ELLERY CHANNING.

*My little children, let us not love in word,
neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth.—*

1 JOHN iii. 18.

LET nothing pass, for every hand
Must find some work to do;
Lose not a chance to waken love,
Be firm and just and true.
So shall a light that cannot fade
Beam on thee from on high,
And angel voices say to thee,
These things shall never die.

All the Year Round.

THERE are little things that leave us little regrets. I might have said kind words, and perhaps have done kind actions to many who now are beyond the reach of them. One look on the unfortunate might have given a day's happiness; one sigh over the pillow of sickness might have insured a night's repose; one whisper might have driven from their victim the furies of despair.

WALTER SAVAGE LANDOR.

*He giveth power to the faint, and to them
that have no might He increaseth strength. —*
ISA. xl. 29.

It is not, Lord, that I have fearful grown
To walk the way I must;
But oh! the path is steep that I must tread,
And often in the dust

I fall, my feet are bleeding from the stones,
And all my tears are vain;
Forgive, I pray, dear Lord, and give me strength,—
Thy strength to rise again.

WHETHER we stumble or whether we fall,
we must only think of rising again and
going on in our course. God never makes us
feel our weakness, but that we may be led to
seek strength from Him.

FÉNELON.

It is impossible for that man to despair who
remembers that his Helper is omnipotent.

JEREMY TAYLOR.

The Lord preserveth the faithful. — Ps. xxxi. 23.

MASTER, to do great work for Thee my hand
Is far too weak ! Thou givest what may suit, —
Some little chips to cut with care minute,
Or tint, or grave, or polish. Others stand
Before their quarried marble fair and grand,
And make a life-work of the great design
Which Thou hast traced ; or many, skilled, combine
To build vast temples, gloriously planned ;
Yet take the tiny stones which I have wrought,
Just one by one as they were given by Thee,
Not knowing what came next in Thy wise thought ;
Set each stone by Thy master-hand of grace,
Form the mosaic as Thou wilt for me,
And in Thy temple pavement give it place.

FRANCES RIDLEY HAVERGAL.

FIDELITY in trifles, and an earnest seeking
to please God in little matters, is a test
of real devotion and love. Let your aim be to
please our dear Lord perfectly in little things,
and to attain a spirit of childlike simplicity and
dependence.

JEAN NICOLAS GROU.

Godliness with contentment is great gain. —

1 TIM. vi. 6.

My crown is in my heart, not on my head;
Not decked with diamonds and Indian stones;
Not to be seen; my crown is called Content.

SHAKESPEARE.

A CONTENTED mind is always joyful;
but joy like this is but religion. The
rich and poor alike, having contentment, enjoy
perpetual rest.

BUDDHA.

I AM always contented with that which happens, for I think that what God chooses is better than what I choose.

EPICETUS.

Continue in prayer. — COL. iv. 2.

BE not afraid to pray, — to pray is right.
Pray if thou canst with hope; but ever pray,
Though hope be weak, or sick with long delay;
Pray in the darkness if there be no light.

.

Whate'er is good to wish, ask that of Heaven,
Though it be what thou canst not hope to see;
Pray to be perfect, though material leaven
Forbid the spirit so on earth to be;
But if for any wish thou darest not pray,
Then pray to God to cast that wish away.

HARTLEY COLERIDGE.

PRAYER is ever profitable; at night it is
our covering, in the daytime it is our
armor. Prayer is the key to unlock the day,
and the bolt to shut in the night. Prayer
sanctifies all our actions.

The example and shadow of heavenly things.
HEB. viii. 5.

FROM the eternal shadow, rounding
All our sun and starlight here,
Voices of our lost ones sounding,
Bid us be of heart and cheer, —
Through the silence, down the spaces, falling on the
inward ear.

Know we not our dead are looking
Downward with a sad surprise,
All our strife of words rebuking
With their mild and loving eyes?
Shall we grieve the holy angels? Shall we cloud their
blessed skies?

JOHN GREENLEAF WHITTIER.

IF ever I am tempted to do something which is easy and pleasant, instead of something hard and disagreeable, which nevertheless I ought to do, if I can only think of those lost saints of mine, who always expected me to do right, and always showed the way, at once my will is fortified. No matter if we have our living friends, who are a law unto our lives, a succor to our wills, the cloud of witnesses cannot be too full of eager and expectant souls. The influence of our beloved dead comes to us purified of all earthly dross and stain, — theirs is a flawless, moral inspiration.

JOHN W. CHADWICK.

Be content. — LUKE iii. 14.

BE thou content ; be still before
His face, at whose right hand doth reign
Fulness of joy for evermore,
Without whom all thy toil is vain.
He is thy living spring, thy sun, whose rays
Make glad with life and light thy dreary days.
Be thou content.

PAUL GERHARDT.

I DO not think the road to contentment lies
in despising what we have not got. Let
us acknowledge all good, all delight that the
world holds, and be content without it. But
this we can never do but by possessing the one
thing,—without which I do not merely say
we ought to be content, but no one can be
content,—the Spirit of the Father.

GEORGE MACDONALD.

Obey my voice, and I will be your God, and ye shall be my people. — JER. vii. 23.

THREE roots bear up Dominion; Knowledge, Will, —
These twain are strong, but stronger yet the third, —
Obedience; 't is the great tap-root that still,
Knit round the rock of Duty, is not stirred,
Though heaven-loosed tempests spend their utmost skill.

JAMES RUSSELL LOWELL.

TENACITY of will lies at the root of all courage; but courage can only rise into true manliness when the will is surrendered; and the more absolute the surrender of the will, the more perfect will be the temper of our courage and the strength of our manliness. "Strong Son of God," cries the poet, "Immortal Love, our wills are ours to make them Thine;" and that strong Son of God, to whom this cry has gone up in our day, and in all days, has left us the secret of His strength in the words, "I am come to do the will of my Father and your Father."

THOMAS HUGHES.

Consider the lilies of the field. — MATT. vi. 28.

CONSIDER then the lilies,
O heart of mine, to-day;
They neither toil nor spin to win
Their beautiful array;
I would that thou couldst lead a life
So fearless, sweet as they

MARGARET E. SANGSTER.

THERE is a wise meaning and a gracious design in every tint of the lily's adornment and every curve of its grace. Its symmetry is a type and proof of the divine justice. Its life is co-ordinated, and keeps time with the sublime motions of the heavens; and its structure and uses are full of the profound teachings of the unsearchable God. And if God thus care for an individual flower which to-day is, and to-morrow is cast into the oven, how much more will He care for an individual human being whom He has made in His own image, and upon whose life He has made such momentous issues to depend.

HUGH MACMILLAN.

Thou hast put gladness in my heart. — Ps. iv. 7.

Chearefulness
Doth expresse
A settled, pious mynde,
Which is not prone to grudging,
From murmuring refined.

ANNE COLLINS.

WHAT indeed does not that word cheerfulness imply? It means a contented spirit; it means a pure heart; it means a kind, loving disposition; it means humility and charity; it means a generous appreciation of others, and a modest opinion of self.

WILLIAM MAKEPEACE THACKERAY.

IT is a Dutch proverb that "paint costs nothing," such are its preserving qualities in damp climates. Well, sunshine costs less, yet is finer pigment; and so of cheerfulness, the more it is spent, the more of it remains.

RALPH WALDO EMERSON.

*I know the thoughts that I think toward you,
saith the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil,
to give you an expected end.* — JER. xxix. 11.

His perfect plan I may not grasp ;
Yet I can trust Love Infinite,
And with my feeble fingers clasp
The Hand which leads me to the light.
My soul upon His errand goes ;
The end I know not, but God knows.

EVERY human soul has a complete and perfect plan cherished for it in the heart of God, — a divine biography marked out which it enters into life to live. This life, rightly unfolded, will be a complete and beautiful whole, an experience led on by God and unfolded by His secret nurture, as the trees and the flowers by the secret nurture of the world. We live in the divine thought. We fill a place in the great, everlasting plan of God's intelligence. We never sink below His care, never drop out of His counsel.

HORACE BUSHNELL.

And the Lord shall guide thee continually. —

ISA. lviii. 11.

Up, up ! the day is breaking,
Say to thy cares good-night;
Thy troubles from thee shaking,
Like dreams in day's fresh light.

He who for winds and clouds
Maketh a pathway free,
Through wastes or hostile crowds
Can make a way for thee.

PAUL GERHARDT.

ARDUOUS is the conflict, but abundant the strength; hard the toil, but glorious the reward. Oh, forsake not me Thy child when walking through the great tumultuous crowds who know not Thy name ! Wide is the sea through which I have to steer my course, and high its swelling waves ; but grace is the breeze that fills the sails, my compass is faith, and my pilot Christ.

THOLUCK.

For none of us liveth to himself. — ROM. xiv. 7.

NOR knowest thou what argument
Thy life to thy neighbor's creed has lent.

RALPH WALDO EMERSON.

THERE is no sort of wrong deed of which a man can bear the punishment alone ; you can't isolate yourself, and say that the evil which is in you shall not spread. Men's lives are as thoroughly blended with each other as the air they breathe ; evil spreads as necessarily as disease. Every sin causes suffering to others besides those who commit it.

GEORGE ELIOT.

Let Him do to me as seemeth good unto Him. — 2 SAM. xv. 26.

GOD never would send you the darkness,
If He felt you could bear the light ;
But you would not cling to His guiding hand,
If the way were always bright,
And you would not care to walk by faith,
Could you always walk by sight.

So He sends you the blinding darkness
And the furnace of sevenfold heat ;
'T is the only way, believe me,
To keep you close to His feet ;
For 't is always so easy to wander,
When our lives are glad and sweet.

THERE is a bird, it is said, that will never learn the song his master will have him sing while his cage is full of light. He listens and learns a snatch of this, a trill of that, a polyglot of all the songs in the grove, but never a separate and entire melody of his own. But the master covers the cage, makes the way all dark about him, then he will listen to the one song he has to sing, and try and try again until at the last his heart is full of it ; then when he has caught the melody, the cage is uncovered.

ROBERT COLLYER.

*Walk worthy of God, who hath called you
unto His kingdom and glory. — 1 THESS. ii. 12.*

LET me not deem that I was made in vain,
Or that my being was an accident
Which Fate, in working its sublime intent,
Not wished to be, to hinder would not deign.
Each drop uncounted in a storm of rain
Hath its own mission, and is duly sent
To its own leaf or blade.

HARTLEY COLERIDGE.

EVEN from a corner it is possible to spring
up into heaven. Rise, therefore, and
form thyself into a fashion worthy of God;
thou canst not do this, however, with gold
and silver. An image like to God cannot be
formed out of such materials as these.

SENECA.

While I live will I praise the Lord: I will sing praises unto my God while I have any being. — Ps. cxlvi. 2.

AH, no! the truest worship does not lie
In fast and vigil; spending dismal days
Only to lift the tribute of a sigh,
Gives God no glory. Come with gladsome lays,
All ye who truly love the Lord most high,
For perfect prayer is found in perfect praise.

IF, then, I were a nightingale, I would do the part of a nightingale. If I were a swan, I would do like a swan. But now I am a rational creature, and I ought to praise God; this is my work. I do it; nor will I desert this post so long as I am allowed to keep it, and I exhort you to join in this same song.

EPICETUS.

By works a man is justified, and not by faith only. — JAMES ii. 24.

NO answer comes to those that pray
And idly stand,
And wait for stones to roll away
At God's command;
He will not break the binding cords
Upon us laid,
If we depend on pleading words,
And will not aid.

THE great human duties are prayer and work, — prayer for every needed blessing, and work to realize it, — prayer, as though God must do the whole, and work, as though we must do it all ourselves. These are the two poles of the great galvanic battery.

ROSWELL DWIGHT HITCHCOCK.

He faileth not. — ZEPH. iii. 5.

HE who hath led will lead
All through the wilderness;
He who hath fed will feed;
He who hath blessed will bless;
He who hath heard thy cry
Will never close His ear;
He who hath marked thy faintest sigh
Will not forget thy tear.
He loveth always, faileth never,
So rest on Him to-day, forever.

FRANCES RIDLEY HAVERGAL.

HAST thou ever found that God hath dealt unfaithfully with thee? or didst thou ever hear that He hath dealt unfaithfully with any other? There is no want of power in Him that he should not be as big as His word; there is no want of love in Him that He should not be as good as His word. We are fleeting and mutable, off and on; to-day not the same as yesterday; and to-morrow, perhaps, like neither of the days; yet He continueth yesterday, to-day, and the same forevermore.

BISHOP SANDERSON.

Be not hasty in thy spirit to be angry; for anger resteth in the bosom of fools. — ECCL. vii. 9.

AS through an ill-thatched roof
The pelting rains descend,
So an unthinking mind
The stormy passions rend;
As well-thatched roofs defy the rain,
So passions crash and dash against
The thoughtful mind in vain.

The Dhammapada.

LIKE those who burn their houses and themselves within them, anger makes all things within full of confusion, smoke, and noise ; so that the soul can neither see nor hear anything that might relieve it. Wherefore, sooner will an empty ship in a storm at sea admit of a governor from without, than a man, tossed with anger and rage, listen to the advice of another, unless he have his own reason first prepared to entertain it.

PLUTARCH.

*For God hath not given us the spirit of fear ;
but of power, and of love, and of a sound
mind. — 2 TIM. i. 7.*

LORD and Father, great and holy !
Fearing naught we come to Thee ;
Fearing naught, though weak and lowly,
For Thy love has made us free.
By the blue sky bending o'er us,
By the green earth's flowery zone,
Teach us, Lord, the angel chorus,
Thou art Love and Love alone.

FREDERIC W. FARRAR.

FEAR may create the enforced obedience of the slave, love only can win the devotion of the child ; and that is why God hath not sent to us — who know the truth, and whom the truth has made free — the spirit of fear and bondage, but of love, and of power, and of a sound mind. And this love is the sole basis of holiness.

IBID.

He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully. — 2 COR. ix. 6.

ALL life is seed dropped in Time's yawning furrow,
Which with slow sprout and shoot,
In the revolving world's unfathomed morrow
Will blossom and bear fruit.

MATHILDE BLIND.

WHEN I sow my good treasure broadcast
as Christ did, when I give myself with
what I am giving, — then, as the earth never
fails of her harvest, but in the old world or
the new will surely bring us our daily bread,
so the soul can never fail of her divine returns.
Here or yonder, in the full time comes the
full blessing; the flower flashing out glory, the
fields laughing with plenty.

ROBERT COLLYER.

Have faith in God. — MARK xi. 22.

FAIN would I hold my lamp aloft,
Like yonder tower built high upon the reef;
Steadfast though tempests rave or winds blow soft,
Clear though the sky dissolve in tears of grief.

For darkness passes, storms shall not abide;
A little patience, and the fog is past;
After the sorrow of the ebbing tide,
The surging flood returns in joy at last.

The night is long, and pain weighs heavily;
But God will hold His world above despair;
Look to the east, where up the lucid sky
The morning climbs! The day shall yet be fair.

CELIA THAXTER.

FAITH rests on every promise of God, however imparted, — directly or by the soul. Is not the soul a promise? . . . He who has kindled in my heart an affectionate earnestness has, in so doing, given a pledge of what He will accomplish. Never despair under God!

WILLIAM ELLERY CHANNING.

Whoso trusteth in the Lord, happy is he. —

PROV. xvi. 20.

ALL as God wills, who wisely heeds
To give or to withhold,
And knoweth more of all my needs,
Than all my prayers have told.

JOHN GREENLEAF WHITTIER.

WE are in God's hands, Brother.

SHAKESPEARE.

IT'S good to live only a moment at a time; . . . it isn't for you and me to lay plans; we've nothing to do but to obey and trust.

GEORGE ELIOT.

Neither is it in our power to redeem them. —

NEH. v. 5.

BUT yesterday, but yesterday
She stood beside our dusty way
Out-reaching, for a moment's space,
The key to fortune's hiding-place;

With wistful meanings in her eyes,
Her radiance veiled in dull disguise,
A moment paused, then turned and fled,
Bearing her message still unsaid.

So fast, so far she sped and flew
Into the depths of ether blue;
And we, too late, make bitter cry,
"Come back, dear Opportunity."

SUSAN COOLIDGE.

THERE are four things that come not back,
—the spoken word, the sped arrow, the
past life, and the neglected opportunity:

Arabian.

And where is the place of my rest? — ISA.
lxvi. 1.

GIVE me the rest that springs from love
Abiding, pure and deep ;
The love that trusts so perfectly,
That it can fall asleep
Beneath the shadows of Thy throne,
Or where the tempests sweep.

ABOVE all and in all do thou, my soul, rest
in the Lord always, for He Himself is
the eternal rest of His saints.

THOMAS À KEMPIS.

WITH Thee is perfect rest and life unchanging. He who enters into Thee enters into the joy of his Lord, and shall have no fear.

SAINT AUGUSTINE.

The gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. — ROM. vi. 23.

WHEN Heaven grows dim and faith seeks to renew
The image of its everlasting dower,
I know no argument so sweet as through
The bosom of a flower.

A wicket-gate to Heaven (of which death
Is the grand portal, sealed to mortal eyes),
Between whose little bars there comes the breath
Of airs from Paradise.

TO the thoughtful mind the lily-blossom is a wicket in the great, unseen portal of death, through which we may obtain bright glimpses of what is beyond. It opens in all its snowy purity and exquisite grace from the dry, withered sheaf, as the transfigured immortal life bursts from the temporary imprisonment of death. And if the death of the plant should thus blossom into undreamt-of beauty, what infinite possibilities better than our brightest hopes are held by that darkness which bounds our vision here! He who raises up the lilies every summer, each from its own root in the mould, will not leave our life in the dust.

HUGH MACMILLAN.

*Know ye not that ye are the temple of God,
and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? —*

I COR. iii. 16.

WHERE'ER the gentle heart
Finds courage from above;
Where'er the heart forsook
Warms with the breath of love;
Where faith bids fear depart,
City of God! Thou art.

Where in life's common ways
With cheerful feet we go,
When in His steps we tread,
Who trod the way of woe;
Where He is in the heart,
City of God! Thou art.

FRANCIS TURNER PALGRAVE.

A SACRED spirit dwells within us, the observer and guardian of all our evil and good. There is no good man without God.

SENECA.

Into Thine hand I commit my spirit. — Ps.
xxxi. 5.

FATHER, Thy hand the wild bird brings
With fearless flight, from shore to shore,
Safe in that sheltering peace it sings,
Howe'er the tempests roar.

So tossed, so frail, so lone am I,
Except that hand my guidance be,
Hear Thou my fearful, hopeful cry,
Dear Lord, lay hold of me.

ROSE TERRY COOKE.

CLING fast to the hand that is leading you,
though it be in darkness, though it be
in deep waters, — you know whom you have
believed. Yield not for a single moment to
misgivings about future storms. Infinite Love,
joined to infinite skill, shall pilot the way
through every strait and temptation.

J. ALEXANDER.

Whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. — GAL. vi. 7.

GOD will not seek thy race,
Nor will He ask thy birth;
Alone He will demand of thee,
What hast thou done on earth?

Persian.

And they who sowed the light, shall reap
The golden sheaves of morning.

JAMES RUSSELL LOWELL.

THE present life is the seed-plot of the future state, and the harvest which we reap in eternity is the same in character and quality as that which now we sow. Every thought we think, every word we speak, every action we perform, every opportunity of service neglected or improved, is a seed sown by us, the fruit of which shall multiply either untold miseries or myriad blessings in the eternity into which we go.

WILLIAM M. TAYLOR.

*Whoso is wise, and will observe these things,
even they shall understand the loving-kindness of
the Lord. — Ps. cvii. 43.*

So, then, believe that every bird that sings,
And every flower that stars the elastic sod,
And every thought the happy summer brings,
To the pure spirit is a word of God.

HARTLEY COLERIDGE.

JESUS illustrated His teachings by these objects. He made everything that was at hand perform a mission for the human soul. The lilies of the field were clothed with spiritual suggestion, and the fowls of the air, as they flew through the trackless firmament, bore a lesson of truth and consolation. And as if to show that there is nothing, however small, that is insignificant, and that has not its mission, He selected the falling sparrow to be a minister of wisdom.

E. H. CHAPIN.

Inasmuch as ye did it not to one of the least of these, ye did it not to me. — MATT. xxv. 45.

LIVING, thou dost not live
If mercy's spring run dry,
What Heaven has lent thee wilt thou freely give,
Dying, thou shalt not die.

He promised even so;
To thee His lips repeat,
Behold, the tears that soothed thy sister's woe
Have washed thy Master's feet !

OLIVER WENDELL HOLMES.

THE final test of religion at that last day is not religiousness, but love ; not what I have done, not what I have believed, but how I have discharged the common charities of life. By what we have not done — by sins of omission — we are judged. It could not be otherwise. For the withholding of love is the negation of the spirit of Christ, the proof that we never knew Him, that for us He lived in vain.

HENRY DRUMMOND.

The will of the Lord be done. — ACTS xxi. 14.

LIGHT ! more light to see
What is the true and perfect will of God,
That we may help to do it; not as tools,
That know not what they fashion, but as hands,
Whose heart is in their work; and whatsoe'er
It be, — this, above all, more faith to cry
In darkness or in light, “Thy will be done.”

LOVE is higher than duty, and the reason is that love in reality contains duty in itself. Love is duty and something more. “Love is a beautiful plant with a beautiful flower, of which duty is the stalk.” All acceptable obedience flows from love; all true love produces cheerful service. We do not really love God if we do not seek to obey Him.

ROSE PORTER.

One that prayed to God alway. — ACTS x. 2.

LOOK up ! look up !

A Father's loving eye o'erlooketh all;
Nay, more, — He all upholds, however small,
Unknown to Him a sparrow cannot fall.

Look up ! look up !

ANNA MARIA SARGEANT.

AH! never forget that Heaven reaches down
close — quite close — to earth, so that
whoever raises his head in a right manner is
sure to find himself in Heaven with our gra-
cious God and all His holy angels, even though
our blind eyes cannot perceive them.

LOOKING up is our strength.

WILLIAM ELLERY CHANNING.

*O turn unto me, and have mercy upon me ;
give Thy strength unto Thy servant. — Ps.
lxxxvi. 16.*

I COME to Thee, O Lord, for strength and patience
To do Thy will ;
Help me, O Father, in this world of duty
My place to fill.

IT is so difficult to bear with patience and allowances the faults of others. It is very mistaken to think that the great occasions of life only demand religious feelings and principles ; it is in the every-day petty annoyances, the constant call upon our charity, forbearance, and meekness, that we feel the constant want of some stronger and more powerful stimulant than the feeling of the moment to smooth down the rubs of life, and make our existence one of peace and happiness.

MARIA HARE.

Let all those that put their trust in Thee rejoice : . . . let them also that love Thy name be joyful in Thee. — Ps. v. 11.

I KNOW He is, and what He is,
Whose one great purpose is the good
Of all; I rest my soul on His
Immortal love and Fatherhood,
And trust Him as His children should.

JOHN GREENLEAF WHITTIER.

TO know God; to love Him altogether; to live in the light of His countenance; to be satisfied with a little in some directions, because in others we have so much; to receive all things hopefully, because they are from Him; to take the peace of resting in His goodness; to desire all the day long, “Oh that my heart were as Thy heart, and that wholly!” — these are open to us.

JOHN HAMILTON THORN.

But ye, brethren, be not weary in well-doing. —

2 THESS. iii. 13.

LIFE is not living
Just for to-day;
Life is not dreaming
All the short way.

'T is living for others,
To lighten their load;
'T is helping your brothers,
And trusting in God.

HOADLEY.

LIFE is made up, not of great sacrifices or duties, but of little things, in which smiles and kindnesses and small obligations given habitually win and preserve the heart and secure comfort.

SIR HUMPHREY DAVY.

Now, therefore, keep thy sorrow to thyself, and bear with a good courage that which hath befallen thee. — 2 ESDRAS X. 15.

THE patient heart,
That bears its heavy cross apart,
And still makes known
Its burden unto Christ alone, —
To this one His sweet spirit brings
Most dear and gracious comfortings.

MARY BRADLEY.

IT is not in vain that you are called to pass through great trials and sufferings. They never leave you what they found you; God forbid they should! But how you bear them, what they lead you to do and to feel will vary according to your own attitude to them. Their trend and purpose are towards those two poles of duty, — God and humanity; but it is our weakness and fault that often we do not read aright their meaning. Suffering may leave us hard, selfish, and complaining, or it may lead us into the mysteries of Providence, and into the very fellowship of God.

THEODORE T. MUNGER.

God is not the author of confusion, but of peace. — I COR. xiv. 33.

LIGHT strains of music, soft and low,
That break upon a troubled sleep;
I hear the promise, old and new,
“God will His faithful children keep
In perfect peace.”

It stills the questionings and doubts,
The nameless fears that throng the soul;
It speaks of love unchanging, sure;
And evermore its echoes roll
“In perfect peace.”

TRUE peace is found only in the possession of God; and the possession of God here on earth consists only in submission to faith and obedience to law. Resign every forbidden joy; restrain every wish that is not referred to this will; banish all eager desires, all anxiety; desire only the will of God; seek Him alone, — and you will find peace; you shall enjoy it in spite of the world.

FÉNELON.

His compassions fail not; they are new every morning. — LAM. iii. 22, 23.

NEW every morning is the love
Our waking and uprising prove;
Through sleep and darkness safely brought,
Restored to life and power and thought.

New mercies each returning day
Hover around us while we pray;
New perils past, new sins forgiven,
New thoughts of God, new hopes of heaven.

JOHN KEBLE.

EACH day, each week, each month, each year, is a new chance given you by God. A new chance, a new leaf, a new life, — this is the golden, the unspeakable gift which each new day offers to you.

FREDERIC W. FARRAR.

And now men see not the bright light which is in the clouds ; but the wind passeth, and cleanseth them. — JOB xxxvii. 21.

HIS purposes will ripen fast,
Unfolding every hour ;
The bud may have a bitter taste,
But sweet will be the flower.

Blind unbelief is sure to err,
And scan His work in vain ;
God is His own interpreter,
And He will make it plain.

WILLIAM COWPER.

THERE is nothing in what has befallen or befalls you which justifies impatience or peevishness. God is inscrutable, but not wrong. Remember if the cloud is over you that there is a bright light always on the other side ; also, that the time is coming, either in this world or the next, when that cloud will be swept away, and the fulness of God's light and wisdom poured around you. If your life is dark, then walk by faith ; and God is pledged to keep you as safe as if you could understand everything.

HORACE BUSHNELL.

But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. —

1 THESS. iv. 13.

SOMEWHERE is comfort, somewhere faith,
Though thou in outer dark remain;
One sweet, sad voice ennobles death,
And still for eighteen centuries saith
Softly, "Ye meet again."

JAMES RUSSELL LOWELL.

THOSE who are gone you have. Those who departed loving you love you still; and you love them always. They are not really gone,—those dear hearts and true,—they are only gone into the next room; and you will presently get up and follow them, and yonder door will be closed upon you, and you will be no more seen.

WILLIAM MAKEPEACE THACKERAY.

Cast thy bread upon the waters; for thou shalt find it after many days. — ECCL. xi. 1.

OH, if the selfish knew how much they lost !
What would they not endeavor, not endure,
To imitate, as far as in them lay,
Him who his wisdom and his powers employ
In making others happy ?

WILLIAM COWPER.

THE most delicate and the most sensible of
all pleasures consists in promoting the
pleasures of others.

LA BRUYÈRE.

HAPPINESS is not perfected until it is shared.

JANE PORTER.

Many shall be purified, and made white, and tried. — DAN. xii. 10.

A WATER-LILY.

O STAR on the breast of the river
O marvel of bloom and grace !
Did you fall straight down from heaven,
Out of the sweetest place ?
You are white as the thoughts of an angel,
Your heart is steeped in the sun ;
Did you grow in the golden city,
My pure and radiant one ?

Nay, nay, I fell not out of heaven,
None gave me my saintly white,
It slowly grew from the blackness,
Far down in the dreary night ;
From the ooze of the silent river
I won my glory and grace ;
White souls fall not, O my poet,
They rise to the sweetest place.

MARY FRANCES BUTTS.

IF we could only think of the pain and the suffering, the unpleasant surroundings, and all the things that make living so hard, as the bed out of which the lily hearts may come, and, with our hidden hearts golden and glowing, just climb up slowly through the deep waters, until the soul shall open out all white and lovely under the full sunlight of God, would it not pay for all we have to bear ?

MARY LOWE DICKENSON.

Be still, and know that I am God. — Ps.
xlvi. 10.

FRET not, poor soul, while doubt and fear
Disturb thy breast ;
The pitying angels, who can see
How vain thy wild regret must be,
Say, Trust and rest.

Strive not, nor struggle; thy poor might
Can never wrest
The meanest thing to serve thy will, —
All power is His alone: be still,
And trust, and rest.

ADELAIDE ANNE PROCTER.

DO you know what Luther said? “Suffer
and be still, and tell no man thy sorrow;
trust in God, — His help will not fail thee.”
This is what Scripture calls keeping silence
before God. To talk much of one’s sorrows
makes one weak; but to tell one’s sorrows to
Him who heareth in secret, makes one strong
and calm.

THOLUCK.

Blessed be the Lord, who daily loadeth us with benefits, even the God of our salvation. — Ps. lxviii. 19.

WHEN all Thy mercies, O my God,
My rising soul surveys,
Transported with the view, I'm lost
In wonder, love, and praise.

Ten thousand thousand precious gifts
My daily thanks employ;
Nor is the least a cheerful heart,
That tastes those gifts with joy.

JOSEPH ADDISON.

IF gratitude is due from man to man, how much more from man to his Maker? The Supreme Being does not only confer upon us those bounties which proceed more immediately from His hand, but even those benefits which are conveyed to us by others. Every blessing we enjoy, by what means soever it may be derived upon us, is the gift of Him who is the great Author of good and Father of mercies.

IBID.

Fear not, believe only. — LUKE viii. 50.

THE childlike faith that asks not sight,
 Waits not for wonder or for sign,
Believes, because it loves aright,
 Shall see things greater, things divine.
Heaven to that gaze shall open wide,
 And brightest angels to and fro
On messages of love shall glide
 'Twixt God and Christ below.

JOHN KEBLE.

THE blessed thing which the Bible calls faith is a state of the soul in which the things of God become glorious certainties. It matters not how it comes, whether as to Thomas through sight, or whether through the evidence of the Spirit; and yet the faith of which Christ said, "Blessed are they which have not seen and yet have believed," was a spiritual faith.

FREDERICK WILLIAM ROBERTSON.

Fight the good fight of faith ; lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called. — 1 TIM. vi. 12.

GREAT duties are before me and great songs ;
And whether crowned or crownless when I fall
It matters not, so as God's work is done.

ALEXANDER SMITH.

THE true hero is the great wise man of duty ; he whose soul is armed by truth, and supported by the smile of God ; he who meets life's perils with a cautious but tranquil spirit, gathers strength by facing its storms, and dies, if he is called to die, as a Christian victor at the post of duty.

HORACE BUSHNELL.

Give, and it shall be given unto you ; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. —
LUKE vi. 38.

DIG channels for the stream of love,
Where they may broadly run ;
And love has overflowing streams
To fill them every one.

For we must share if we would keep
That good thing from above ;
Ceasing to give we cease to have,
Such is the law of love.

RICHARD CHENEVIX TRENCH.

IT is only the most pitiable of heart poverty that feels as if it could do nothing to add to the happiness of other lives, and does not even make the attempt. And where no love is given, the life shrivels and narrows until none can be received. The soul itself is refreshed and enlarged by the stream of love that flows through it ; this is the true well of water springing up within unto everlasting life.

LUCY LARCOM.

If there be first a willing mind, it is accepted according to that a man hath, and not according to that he hath not. — 2 COR. viii. 12.

HE bade us do the thing we could, — no more.

Be heedful of our outward ways and deeds,
Watch well our feet, — that so He might outpour
His Spirit for our spirit's inmost needs.

EMILY PFEIFFER.

IN Thy book, O Lord, are written all those
that do what they can, though they cannot
do what they would.

SAINT AUGUSTINE.

OUR duty is to be useful, not according to
our desires, but according to our powers.

HENRI FRÉDÉRIC AMIEL.

Behold, we count them happy which endure. —

JAMES V. II.

WELL, to suffer is divine;
Pass the watchword down the line,
 Pass the countersign, "Endure!"
Not to him who rashly dares,
But to him who nobly bears,
 Is the victor's garland sure.

JOHN GREENLEAF WHITTIER.

IF for some of us, and sometimes for all of us, action cannot mean doing, then remember bearing too is action, — oftenest its hardest part.

WILLIAM CHANNING GANNETT.

ENDURE and dare, true heart; through patience, joined with boldness, come we at a crown encircled with a thousand blessings.

Spanish Proverb.

Let us do good unto all men. — GAL. vi. 10.

THE chief use, then, in man of that he knows,
Is his painstaking for the good of all;
Not fleshly weeping for our own-made woes,
Nor laughing from a melancholy gall;
Not hating from a soul that overflows
With bitterness breathed out from inward thrall;
But sweetly, rather, to ease, to loose, or bind,
As need requires, this frail, fall'n human kind.

FULKE GREVILLE.

POWER to do good is the true and lawful
end of aspiring. For good thoughts,
though God accept them, yet toward men
they are little better than good dreams, except
they be put in act, and that cannot be without
power and place as the vantage ground.

LORD BACON

Vouchsafe, O Lord, to keep us this day without sin. — TE DEUM.

DEAR Lord, Thou bringest back the morn;
Thy children wake; Thy children pray:
Oh! make our souls divinely yearn,
Pour Thy best beauty on the day.

Lend our slow feet that speed of Thine;
Our busy hands from evil stay;
Lord, help us still to tasks divine,
Still keep us in the heavenly way.

The weaklings plead; the sinners pray;
But, Lord, Thy grace exceeds our sin;
We cannot ask too bright a day;
Too much of Thee we cannot win.

THOMAS HORNBLOWER GILL.

LET it be our happiness this day to add to the happiness of those around us, to comfort some sorrow, to relieve some want, to add some strength to our neighbor's virtue.

WILLIAM ELLERY CHANNING.

Though He be not far from every one of us. —
ACTS xvii. 27.

THEN my heart said, "Give o'er,
Question no more, no more;
The wind, the storm, the wild hermit-flower,
The illuminated air,
The pleasure after prayer,
Proclaim the unoriginated Power;
The mystery that hides Him here and there
Bears the sure witness He is everywhere."

ALICE CARY.

IF you wish to behold God, you may see
Him in every object around; search in
your breast, and you will find Him there.
And if you do not yet perceive where He
dwells, confute me if you can, and say where
He is not.

METASTASIO.

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. — MATT. v. 8.

THE pure in heart God's face shall see;
And does not this
Include the whole ecstatic scale
Of promised bliss?
Can souls which His dear presence gain,
More joy attain?

CERTAINLY as the open eye drinks in the light, do the pure in heart see God. And he that lives truly, feels Him as a presence not to be put by.

THEODORE PARKER.

THE pure in heart see God in everything, and see Him everywhere; and they are supremely blessed.

JOHN G. HOLLAND.

I will not leave you comfortless ; I will come to you. — JOHN xiv. 18.

BUT He whose human feet have trod
All paths of trial, He who knew
No sympathy but that of God,
Though linked with flesh that craved it too,
Yearns with us in our needs, our dreads ;
And mindful of our feeble frame,
Holds to His heart our throbbing heads,
With love that hath no mortal name.

MARGARET J. PRESTON.

WE can never know a sorrow into which the Son of man cannot enter ; and we can never understand the depth and preciousness of His sympathy till we come to need it. . . . I have had a very deep wound, the trial has been very severe ; but how should I have known Christ as a brother born for adversity without it ?

LADY POWERSCOURT : *Letters.*

If thou draw out thy soul to the hungry, and satisfy the afflicted soul ; then shall thy light rise in obscurity, and thy darkness be as the noonday ; and the Lord shall guide thee continually. — ISA. lviii. 10, 11.

SELDOM can the heart be lonely,
If it seek a lonelier still ;
Self-forgetting, seeking only
Emptier cups of love to fill.

FRANCES RIDLEY HAVERGAL.

IN shutting none out of our sympathy, in the willingness to help all and to be helped by all, we are here beginning like children to climb the foot-hills that lead to immortality. The self-absorbed, the unsympathetic, the unloving have lost their way, and are on the downward path ; no light from the eternal life is reflected from their faces.

LUCY LARCOM.

*Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love ;
therefore with loving-kindness have I drawn
thee. — JER. xxxi. 3.*

O SOUL, rejoice !
Thou art God's child indeed, for all thy sinning ;
A poor weak child, yet His, and worth the winning
With Saviour eyes and voice.

GEORGE MACDONALD.

JUST as a mother would not love a child
the better for its being turned into a
model of perfection by one stroke of magic,
but does love it the more deeply every time it
tries to be good ; so I do hope and believe our
great Father does not wait for us to be good
and wise to love us, but loves us, and loves to
help us in the very thick of our struggle with
folly and sin.

JULIANA HORATIA EWING.

My times are in Thy hand. — Ps. xxxi. 15.

I NEED not care
If days to come be dark or fair,
If the sweet summer brings delight,
Or bitter winter chills the air.

How this is planned,
Or that, I may not understand ;
I am content, my God, to know
That all my times are in Thy hand.

MARY BRADLEY.

DO your best loyally and cheerfully, and
suffer yourself to feel no anxiety or fear.
Your times are in God's hands. He has as-
signed you your place ; He will direct your
paths ; He will accept your efforts if they be
faithful ; He will bless your aims if they be
for your soul's good.

FREDERIC W. FARRAR.

Truly the light is sweet, and a pleasant thing it is for the eyes to behold the sun. — ECCL. xi. 7.

SERENE will be our days and bright,
And happy will our natures be,
When love is an unerring light.

WILLIAM WORDSWORTH.

LOVE is sunshine.

HENRY WADSWORTH LONGFELLOW.

GOD wishes us to have the light of love in our homes. He would have in them a tender play of laughter and humor, a pleasant interchange of light and color and warmth, in word and mirth, which makes the brightness perfect, and is as much the work of the sunshine in the house as the delightful gayety of nature is the doing of the sun.

STOPFORD A. BROOKE.

I trust in the mercy of God for ever and ever. —

Ps. lii. 8.

FOR us, whatever 's undergone,
Thou knowest, willest what is done;
Grief may be joy misunderstood, —
Only the good discern the good;
I trust Thee while my days go on.

I praise Thee while my days go on;
I love Thee while my days go on;
Through dark and dearth, through fire and frost,
With emptied arms and treasure lost,
I thank Thee while my days go on.

ELIZABETH BARRETT BROWNING.

IT is the Lord, let Him do what seemeth good. Our part is to pray that we may bear patiently whatever trials may be allotted us, firmly trusting in His word that all things shall work together for good to them that love Him.

HANNAH MORE.

With Thee is the fountain of life. — Ps. xxxvi. 9.

THOU, Lord, alone art all Thy children need,
And there is none beside;
From Thee the streams of blessedness proceed,
In Thee the blest abide;
Fountain of life and all-abounding grace,
Our source, our centre, and our dwelling-place!

MADAME GUYON.

AT the bottom of every man there is an abyss which hope, joy, ambition, hate, love, the sweetness of thinking, the pleasure of writing, the pride of conquest cannot fill. The whole world would not satisfy it; but, O my God! a drop, one single drop of Thy grace causes it to overflow.

JOSEPH ROUX.

Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary? —
 MARK vi. 3.

A LESSON, Lord, those eighteen years to me;
 Not elsewhere I could so devoutly learn
 That humble tasks are best, howe'er I yearn
 For higher spheres where I may work more free.
 Blest were those patient, toiling years to Thee,
 Their secret kept within Thy lonely heart,
 While Thou wast trained by daily skill of art
 To build new worlds for human destiny,
 Thy future was the *Now*. 'T was from its height
 Thine eye read meanings in the passing day;
 If Cross of Death cast shadows on Thy way,
 What sun was that so darkened in his light?
 O Nazarene, out of these toils there came,
 That which we prize most dear, — a Brother's Name!
 A. A. LIPSCOMB.

CHRIST did not want higher occasions than the Father gave him. The grand maxim of His mission was that the humblest spheres give the greatest weight and dignity to principles. He was the good carpenter, — saving the world. Rightly viewed, there are no small occasions in this world, as in our haste we too often think. Great principles, principles sacred even to God, are at stake in every moment of life. God prescribes our duty; and it were wrong not to believe that if we undertake God's real work, He will furnish us to it, and give us pleasure in it.

HORACE BUSHNELL.

If thine enemy hunger, feed him ; if he thirst, give him drink ; for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head. — ROM. xii. 20.

BUT if for wrongs we needs revenge must have,
Then be our vengeance of the noblest kind ;
Do we his body from our fury save,
And let our hate prevail against our mind ?
What can 'gainst him a greater vengeance be
Than make his foe more worthy far than he ?

LADY ELIZABETH CAREW.

IF thou must needs have revenge of thine enemy, with a soft tongue break his bones, heap coals of fire on his head, forgive him, and enjoy it. To forgive our enemies is a charming way of revenge and a short Cæsarean conquest, overcoming without a blow ; laying our enemies at our feet under sorrow, shame, and repentance ; leaving our foes our friends, and solicitously inclined to grateful retaliation.

SIR THOMAS BROWNE.

As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. —

REV. iii. 19.

GREAT Master, touch us with Thy skilful hand,
Let not the music that is in us die;
Great sculptor, hew and polish us; nor let,
Hidden and lost, Thy form within us lie.
Spare not the stroke, do with us as Thou wilt,
Let there be naught unfinished, broken, marr'd;
Complete Thy purpose, that we may become
Thy perfect image, O our God and Lord.

HORATIUS BONAR.

TROUBLES are often the tools by which
God fashions us for better things. God
Almighty casts a man down when He wants to
chisel him, and the chiselling is always to make
him something finer and better than before.

HENRY WARD BEECHER.

A GEM is not polished without rubbing, nor
is a man perfected without trials.

Chinese.

Add to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness charity. — 2 PETER i. 7.

O BROTHER man, fold to thy heart thy brother,
Where pity dwells the peace of God is there;
To worship rightly is to love each other, —
Each smile a hymn, each kindly word a prayer.

JOHN GREENLEAF WHITTIER.

AS the rays come from the sun, and yet are not the sun, even so our love and pity, though they are not God, but merely a poor, weak image and reflection of Him, yet from Him alone they come. If there is mercy in our hearts, it comes from the Fountain of Mercy. If there is the light of love in us, it is a ray from the full sun of love.

CHARLES KINGSLEY.

That all may learn, and all may be comforted. — 1 COR. xiv. 31.

WHEN God gives to us the clearest sight,
He does not touch our eyes with love, but sorrow.

JOHN BOYLE O'REILLY.

WE must suffer in ourselves before we can truly love others, and we must suffer greatly before we can love widely. Why it is so we may not be able to tell, unless it be that only thus do we gain a thorough knowledge of ourselves. There is in the heart of man a secret chamber where God has put all humanity and Himself; touch the door with the hand of suffering and it flies open, and man finds himself one with all others, and God Himself in the midst of them.

THEODORE T. MUNGER.

Be ready to every good work. — TITUS iii. 1.

INTO thy charge hath He not given space,
All of thine own to make look green and sweet;
To be a haven unto troubled souls,
To be a resting-place for weary feet?

Doth He require at thy hands aught but this, —
To let thy garden show itself so fair,
That others seeing it shall straightway go
And till the portions given to their care?

AND what is work? Is it only some task
of hand or brain? Is it only accom-
plished when we see tangible evidences of our
toil? Or is it, too, the checking of a petulant
or thoughtless word, the subduing of an un-
worthy desire, the rising above the subtle
temptation that woos us to spiritual indolence,
the striving to keep fresh and blooming the
garden-plot God has given us all for our own,
and where only by heart-work the fair flow-
ers of "Love," "Joy," and "Peace" can be
brought to bloom?

If thou shalt hearken unto the voice of the Lord thy God, blessed shalt thou be. — DEUT. xxviii. 2, 3.

O GOD, within so close to me
That every thought is plain ;
Be judge, be friend, be Father still,
And in Thy heaven reign ;
Thy heaven is mine, my very soul,
Thy words are sweet and strong,
They fill my inward silences
With music and with song.

They send me challenges to right,
And loud rebuke my ill ;
They ring my bells of victory,
They breathe my "Peace, be still !"

WILLIAM CHANNING GANNETT.

THERE is no greater gift or possession than to believe God speaks to us. If we believe that, we are already blessed.

MARTIN LUTHER.

Though He slay me, yet will I trust in Him. —

JOB xiii. 15.

WITHIN the slender chalice of thy hand
Hold fast what I give thee, and drop down
The fringes of those tender flowers of blue,
Thy wondering eyes ; nor question, nor withstand
What I may give. Perchance my love hath planned
Some sweet surprise, or test if thou be true ;
What if it be a sprig of bitter rue,
A strange, swift summons to an unknown land,
A hurting thorn, a cross ? rare gifts I know
For love to bring ; but wouldst thou trust me still ?
Quick, dear, thine answer ! “ I should trust until
The hidden meaning in thy gift should show.”
Ah, sweet, when God sends just such gifts to thee,
Canst thou not answer Him as thou dost me ?

WE should see not only the hand of God,
but the hand of our Heavenly Father,
full of mercy and loving-kindness in all that
befalls us. We should believe it to be best
for us, because it is His will.

GEORGE W. BETHUNE.

Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might. — ECCL. ix. 10.

Do the work that's nearest,
Though it's dull at whiles,
Helping when we meet them
Lame dogs over stiles.

CHARLES KINGSLEY.

FEW are needed to do the out-of-the-way tasks which startle the world, and one may be most useful just doing common-place duties, and leaving the issue with God. And when it is all over, and our feet will run no more, and our hands are helpless, and we have scarcely strength to murmur a last prayer, then we shall see that instead of needing a larger field we have left untilled many corners of our single acre, and that none of it is fit for our Master's eye were it not for the softening shadow of the Cross.

GEORGE MACDONALD.

Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life. — REV. ii. 10.

WHY should our spirits be opprest
When days of darkness fall?
Our Father knoweth what is best,
And He hath made them all.

He made them, and to all their length
Set parallels of gain;
We gather from our pain the strength
To rise above our pain.

ALICE CARY.

GOD, who in mercy and wisdom governs the world, would never have suffered so many sadnesses, and have sent them especially to the most virtuous and wisest men, but that He intends they should be the seminary of comfort, the nursery of virtue, the exercise of wisdom, the trial of patience, the venturing for a crown, and the crown of glory.

JEREMY TAYLOR.

*But now abideth faith, hope, love, these three ;
and the greatest of these is love. — I COR. xiii.
13 (R. V.).*

MORE faith, dear Lord, more faith !
Take all these doubts away ;
Oh let the simple words “ He saith ”
Confirm my faith each day.

More hope, dear Lord, more hope !
To conquer timid fear,
To cheer life's path as on I grope
Till Heaven's own light appear.

More love, dear Lord, more love !
Such as on earth was Thine, —
All graces and all gifts above,
Unselfish love be mine.

ELIZABETH C. KINNEY.

HOPE is the mainspring of human action ;
Faith seals our lease of immortality ;
and Charity and Love give the passport to
the soul's true and lasting happiness.

STREET.

Trust in the Lord with all thine heart, and lean not unto thine own understanding. — PROV. iii. 5.

OH let Thy sacred will
All Thy delight in me fulfil !
Let me not think an action mine own way,
But as Thy love shall sway,
Resigning up the rudder to Thy skill.

GEORGE HERBERT.

OUR helm is given up to a better guidance than our own. The course of events is quite too strong for any helmsman; and our little wherry is taken in tow by the ship of the Great Admiral, which knows the way, and has the force to draw men and States and planets to their good.

RALPH WALDO EMERSON.

For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us. — ROM. viii. 18.

BUT all through life I see a cross,
Where sons of God yield up their breath;
There is no gain except by loss,
There is no life except by death;
There is no vision but by faith,
Nor glory but by bearing shame,
Nor justice but by taking blame,
And that Eternal Passion saith,
“Be emptied of glory and right and name.”
WALTER C. SMITH.

THE prime condition of a life ever found is a life ever lost. But there are times when we all feel poor and bare and sad for our losses, and wonder whether it was not all wrong when the treasure was taken away. If we are poor because we stand true to life and duty, we are poor only as the sower is poor, because he has to cast his wheat into the furrow and then wait for the sheaves of harvest. Our poverty then is our wealth, and our loss our gain.

ROBERT COLLYER.

And thou shalt be secure, because there is hope. — JOB xi. 18.

AND, as in sparkling majesty a star
Gilds the bright summit of some gloomy cloud,
Bright'ning the half-veiled face of heaven afar ;
So when dark thoughts my boding spirit shroud,
Sweet Hope ! celestial influence round me shed,
Waving thy silver pinions o'er my head.

JOHN KEATS.

HOPE is the cordial of the human heart.

ROBERT BURNS.

HOPE never hurt any one, never yet interfered with duty ; nay, always strengthens to the performance of duty, gives courage, and clears the judgment. Saint Paul says, " We are saved by hope."

GEORGE MACDONALD.

Bless ye the Lord, all ye His hosts, ye ministers of His that do His pleasure. Bless the Lord, all His works in all places of His dominion; bless the Lord, O my soul.—Ps. ciii. 21, 22.

THE meanest floweret of the vale,
The simplest note that swells the gale,
The common sun, the air, the skies,
To him are opening paradise.

GRAY.

YES, we can join our hymn of praise to that which goes up forever to God from sun and stars, clouds and showers, beasts and birds, and every living thing, giving thanks forever for His great glory.

CHARLES KINGSLEY.

LET not the blessings we receive daily from God make us not to value or not to praise Him because they be common. What would not a blind man give to see the pleasant rivers and meadows and flowers and fountains that we have met with?

IZAACK WALTON.

But why dost thou judge thy brother? —

ROM. xiv. 10.

THE glance that doth thy neighbor doubt,
Turn thou, O man, within,
And see if it will not bring out
Some unsuspected sin.
To hide from shame the branded brow,
Make broad thy charity,
And judge no man except as thou
Wouldst have him judge of thee.

ALICE CARY.

SUCH as every one is inwardly, so he judgeth outwardly.

THOMAS À KEMPIS.

WHAT man can judge his neighbor aright, save he whose love makes him refuse to judge him?

GEORGE MACDONALD.

God is our God for ever and ever ; He will be our guide even unto death. — Ps. xlviii. 14.

THY way, not mine, O Lord,
However dark it be,
Lead me by Thine own hand,
Choose out the path for me.
Not mine, not mine the choice
In things or great or small,
Be Thou my guide, my strength,
My wisdom, and my all.

HORATIUS BONAR.

WE want a guide who knows us, whether we be self-willed and over-confident, or despondent and over-sensitive, or worldly and aspiring. We want a guide who knows our frame and pities us, is not vexed with our ignorance or mistakes, but is tender towards us and patient. We want a guide who values character, and knows how to train while He guides ; who guides for the purpose of training, sometimes into very hard paths, but profitable for the soul.

THEODORE DWIGHT WOOLSEY.

When I awake I am still with Thee. — Ps.
cxxxix. 18.

STILL, still with Thee when purple morning breaketh,
When the bird waketh and the shadows flee;
Fairer than morning, lovelier than the daylight,
Dawns the sweet consciousness, I am with Thee!

HARRIET BEECHER STOWE.

I WOULD ever awake with God. My first thoughts are for Him, who hath made the night for rest and the day for work, and who hath blessed both. If my heart be early seasoned with His presence, it will savor of Him all the day.

While they are yet speaking I will hear. —
ISA. lxxv. 24.

EVERY inward aspiration
Is God's angel undefiled,
And for every "O my Father!"
Slumbers deep a "Here, my child."

IF we use the name of God, is this not God's presence becoming factor in us? No need, then, of being "great" to share that aspiration and that presence. The smallest roadside pool has its water from heaven and its gleam from the sun, and can hold the stars in its bosom as well as the great ocean. Even so the humblest man or woman can live splendidly. That is the royal truth that we need to learn, you and I who have no mission, and no great sphere to move in.

WILLIAM CHANNING GANNETT.

*Blessed is that servant whom his Lord when
He cometh shall find so doing. — LUKE xii. 43.*

FORENOON, and afternoon, and night; forenoon,
And afternoon, and night; forenoon and what?
The empty song repeats itself! No more?
Yea, that is life: make this forenoon sublime,
This afternoon a psalm, this night a prayer;
And time is vanquished, and thy victory won.

EDWARD ROWLAND SILL.

TO give happiness and to do good, there is
our only law, our anchor of salvation,
our beacon-light, our reason for existing. All
religions may crumble away; so long as this
survives we have still an ideal, and life is worth
living.

HENRI FRÉDÉRIC AMIEL.

*And this commandment have we from Him,
that he who loveth God love his brother also. —*

I JOHN IV. 21.

LOVEST thou God as thou oughtest, then lovest thou
likewise thy brethren;
One is the sun in the heaven, and one, only one, is
Love also.
Bears not each human figure the godlike stamp on his
forehead?
Readest thou not in his face thine origin? Is he not
sailing,
Lost like thyself on an ocean unknown; and is he not
guided
By the same stars that guide thee? Why shouldst thou
hate then thy brother?
Hateth he thee? forgive! for 't is sweet to stammer
one letter
Of the Eternal's language; — on earth it is called
Forgiveness.

BISHOP TEGNÉR.

THEREFORE come what may, hold fast to
love. Though men should rend your
heart, let them not embitter or harden it. We
win by tenderness, we conquer by forgiveness.

FREDERICK WILLIAM ROBERTSON.

There shall be one fold and one shepherd. —
JOHN X. 16.

WILD bird flying northward, whither thou?
And vessel bending southward, what thy quest?
Clouds of the east with sunshine on your brow,
Whither? and crescent setting in the west?

Still we pursue while the white day is ours;
The wild bird journeys northward in his strength;
The tender clouds waste in their sunny bowers,—
One shepherd guides and gathers them at length.

ANNIE FIELDS.

HE will guide us in a sure path, though it
be a rough one; though shadows hang
upon it, yet He will be with us. He will bring
us home at last. By His eye or by His voice
He will guide us, if we be docile and gentle;
by His staff and by His rod, if we wander or
are wilful; anyhow and by all means He will
bring us to His rest.

HENRY EDWARD MANNING.

*I am with thee, and will keep thee in all places
whither thou goest. — GEN. xxviii. 15.*

LORD, be Thou near, and cheer my lonely way ;
With Thy sweet peace my aching bosom fill ;
Scatter my cares and fears, my griefs allay ;
And be it mine each day
To love and please Thee still.

PIERRE CORNEILLE.

WHAT a joy to know that of all things and
all thoughts, God is nearest to us ! — so
near that we cannot see Him ; but far beyond
seeing Him, we can know Him infinitely.

GEORGE MACDONALD.

GOD is where the sun glows ; God is where
the violet blooms ; is where yon bird flaps its
wings. Though no friend, no man be with
thee, fear nothing ! Thy God is here.

DINTER.

*O Thou that hearest prayer, unto Thee shall
all flesh come.* — Ps. lxxv. 2.

IF there be Better, — and the dream of it,
The longing for it, shows that there must be, —
It is not in ourselves; it is the God
Beyond, whom our souls seek; the search is prayer.
More life we ask of Him who is the Life;
The reason why we pray is this, we must.

LUCY LARCOM.

PRAYER is the measure of love.

SAINT AUGUSTINE.

PRAYER, administering the perpetual lesson of humility, of hope, of love, makes us feel our connection with Heaven through every touch of our necessities; it binds us to Providence by a chain of daily benefits; it impresses the heart of all with a perpetual remembrance of the God of all.

GEORGE CROLY.

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. — 1 JOHN i. 9.

WHAT better can we do than prostrate fall
Before Him reverent, and there confess
Humbly our faults, and pardon beg with tears
Wat'ring the ground?

JOHN MILTON.

EVERY man has two angels, — one on his right shoulder, and one on his left. When he does good, the angel on his right shoulder writes it down and seals it, because what is once well done is done forever. When he does evil, the angel on his left shoulder writes it down, but does not seal it. He waits until midnight. If, before that time, the man bows down his head and says, "Gracious Allah! I have sinned; forgive me," the angel rubs it out; but if not, then at midnight he seals the record, and the angel upon the right shoulder weeps.

Persian.

The Lord grant you that ye may find rest. —

RUTH i. 9.

NOT in the changing sky,
The stormy sea,
Yet somewhere in God's wide world
Rest there must be.
Within thy Saviour's heart
Place all thy care,
And learn, O weary soul,
Thy rest is there.

ADELAIDE ANNE PROCTER.

THERE is a power in this rest in God of which the men who are rushing along the broad and dusty highway can form no conception. The meadows on which the soul refreshes itself are ever green.

THOLUCK.

Thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things : enter thou into the joy of thy Lord. — MATT. XXV. 21.

O YE that faint and die, arise and live !
Sing, ye that all things have a charge to bless ;
If He is faithful who has sworn to give,
Then be ye also faithful to possess.
ANNA LÆTITIA WARING.

I will not count
On aught but being faithful.
GEORGE ELIOT.

THE essential fidelity of the heart is the same, whether it be exercised in two mites or in a regal treasury ; the genuine faithfulness of the life is equally beautiful, whether it be displayed in governing an empire or in writing an exercise. Observe the striking fact that our Lord does not say, " He that is faithful in that which is least will be faithful also in much," but " He that *is* faithful in that which is least *is* faithful also in much."

FREDERIC W. FARRAR.

Work out your own salvation. — PHIL. ii. 12.

AND so I live, you see,
Go through the world, try, prove, reject,
Prefer still struggling to effect
My warfare; happy that I can
Be crossed and thwarted as a man,
Nor left in God's contempt apart,
With ghastly smooth life, dead at heart,
Tame, in earth's paddock as her prize;
Thank God no paradise stands barred
To entry.

ROBERT BROWNING.

THE religion of Jesus Christ is altogether a practical thing. Just consider how we are taught anything else that is practical. It is not by hearing or reading about making shoes that a man becomes a shoemaker, but by trying to make them.

AUGUSTUS HARE.

Shall we receive good at the hand of God, and shall we not receive evil? — JOB ii. 10.

WITH patient mind thy course of duty run,
God nothing does or suffers to be done
But thou wouldst do thyself, couldst thou but see
The end of all events as well as He.

DR. BYROM.

OF nothing may we be more sure than this :
if we cannot sanctify our present lot, we
could sanctify no other. Our heaven and our
Almighty Father are there, or nowhere. The
obstructions of that lot are given for us to
heave away by the concurrent touch of a holy
spirit and labor of strenuous will, its gloom for
us to tint with some celestial light, its mys-
teries are for our worship, its sorrows for our
trust, its perils for our courage, its temptations
for our faith. Soldiers of the Cross, it is not
for us, but for our Leader and our Lord to
choose the field. It is ours, taking the station
which He assigns, to make it a field of truth
and honor, though it be a field of death.

JAMES MARTINEAU.

If ye seek Him, He will be found of you. —

2 CHRON. xv. 2.

ONWARD we sweep through smooth and storm,
We are voyagers all in shine or gloom,
And the dreamer who skulks by his chimney warm
Drifts in his sleep to doom, — to doom.

JOHN STERLING.

THE great thing in this world is not so much where we stand as in what direction we are moving. To reach the port of heaven, we must sail sometimes with the wind and sometimes against it, but we must sail, and not drift nor lie at anchor.

OLIVER WENDELL HOLMES.

NO wind serves him who addresses his voyage to no certain port.

MONTAIGNE.

*Teach me Thy way, O Lord, and lead me in
a plain path.* — Ps. xxvii. 11.

ALL is uncertainty;
Yet over all
One guideth steadily
Great things and small.
What will the issue be? —
God guideth all.

JAMES FREEMAN CLARKE.

THERE is no authority short of God. Look up to Him, expect His teachings. And though clouds of uncertainty may come, never let them make you turn your eyes away in discouragement, or think that on the earth you can find that guidance which is not a thing of earth, but which must come to us from heaven.

PHILLIPS BROOKS.

Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof. —

MATT. vi. 34.

BECAUSE in a day of my days to come
There waiteth a grief to be,
Shall my heart grow faint and my lips be dumb
In this day that is bright for me?

MARGARET E. SANGSTER.

THE *present* is all we have to manage; the past is irrevocable, the future is uncertain; nor is it fair to burden one moment with the weight of the next. Sufficient unto the *moment* is the trouble thereof. In looking forward to future life, let us recollect that we have not to sustain all its toil, to endure all its sufferings, or to encounter all its crosses at once. One moment comes laden with its own *little* burden, then flies, and is succeeded by another no heavier than the last; if one could be sustained, so can another and another.

JANE TAYLOR.

*The Lord your God is gracious and merciful,
and will not turn away His face from you.—*

2 CHRON. xxx. 9.

O THOU our soul's chief hope !

We to Thy mercy fly ;

Where'er we are, Thou canst protect,

Whate'er we need supply.

JOHN AUSTIN.

THOU, God, art whatever Thou art in Thyself ; for Thou art Thine own wisdom, Thine own goodness, Thine own power, and above all else art merciful ! What art Thou but mercy and love ? Thou canst not depart from Thine own nature. Deep calls to deep ; the deep of misery calls to the deep of mercy. May the deep of mercy swallow up the deep of misery. Have mercy upon me ! not according to the mercy of man, which is small, but according to the mercy of God, which is great, which is infinite.

SAVONAROLA.

Whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God. —

I COR. X. 31.

TEACH me, my God and King,
In all things Thee to see,
And what I do in anything,
To do it as for Thee.

All may of Thee partake;
Nothing can be so mean
Which, with this tincture, "for Thy sake,"
Will not grow bright and clean.

GEORGE HERBERT.

WE treat God with irreverence by banishing Him from our thoughts, not by referring to His will on slight occasions. He is not a finite authority or intelligence, which cannot be troubled with small things. There is nothing so small but that we may honor God by asking His guidance of it, or insult Him by taking it into our own hands.

JOHN RUSKIN.

There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man : but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able ; but will with the temptation also make a way of escape, that ye may be able to bear it. —
1 COR. X. 13.

BE it good or ill, be it what you will,
It needs must help me on my road, —
My rugged way to heaven, please God.

CHRISTINA G. ROSSETTI.

GOD help you to do something more than to resist your temptation. God help you to do something more than simply to come down as if you had resisted an enemy. God help you to come forth not merely strong, but stronger ; not merely having kept the strength you have, but filled with a new and inspiring strength, which subsists in these three great things which have taken possession of your soul, — your consciousness that God is over you, that the power of God is in you, and that every one led into temptation is the child of God.

PHILLIPS BROOKS.

This is the message that ye heard from the beginning, that we should love one another.—

I JOHN iii. 11.

“I LOVE God,” said the saint. God spake above,

“Who loveth me must love those whom I love.”

“I scourge myself,” the hermit cried. God spake :

“Kindness is prayer, but not a self-made ache.”

JOHN BOYLE O'REILLY.

WE are farthest away from God when we cannot perceive Him in our fellow-beings.

LUCY LARCOM.

I AM satisfied I am on the right path so long as I can see anything to make me happier. Anything to make me love man, therefore God the more. God is not far from that heart to which man is near.

JAMES RUSSELL LOWELL.

Not as I will, but as Thou wilt. — MATT.
xxvi. 39.

“NOT as I will;” the sound grows sweet
Each time my lips the words repeat.
“Not as I will;” the darkness feels
More safe than light when this thought steals
Like whispered voice to calm and bless
All unrest and all loneliness.
“Not as I will,” because the One
Who loved us first and best has gone
Before us on the road, and still
For us must all His love fulfil,
“Not as we will.”

H. H.

RESIGNATION to the will of God is the whole of piety; it includes in it all that is good, and is a source of the most settled quiet and composure of mind. It is a temper particularly suited to our mortal condition, and what we should endeavor after for our own sakes in our passage through such a world as this, where there is nothing upon which we can rest or depend.

BISHOP BUTLER.

Whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them. — MATT. vii. 12.

Do not look for wrong and evil,
You will find them if you do;
As you measure for your neighbor,
He will measure back to you.

Look for goodness, look for gladness,
You will meet them all the while;
If you bring a smiling visage
To the glass, you meet a smile.

ALICE CARY.

MAN must become just and good through a just and good mode of treatment. Good must call forth good. This reminds me of that beautiful Swedish legend of the Middle Ages, — about the youth who was changed by a witch into a were-wolf, but who at the sound of his Christian name spoken by a loving voice would recover his original shape.

FREDRIKA BREMER.

A merry heart doeth good like a medicine. —

PROV. xvii. 22.

JOG on, jog on the foot-path way,
And merrily hent the stile-a;
A merry heart goes all the day,
Your sad tires in a mile-a.

SHAKESPEARE.

LAUGHING cheerfulness throws sunlight on all the paths of life. Peevishness covers with its dark fog even the most distant horizon. Sorrow causes more absence of mind and confusion than so-called levity.

JEAN PAUL FRIEDERICH RICHTER.

It is ever my thought that the most God-fearing man should be the most blithe man.

THOMAS CARLYLE.

Casting all your care upon Him; for He careth for you. — I PETER V. 7.

IF you fear,
Cast all your care on God; that anchor holds.
ALFRED TENNYSON.

AND so when we are lost in the great maze of life, and wander through the streets of this world feeling that the familiar path is gone, when we see no landmark of duty, no inspiring light of attractive work, and know not where we are, then, if our trust in God does not fail us, we learn lessons we should not otherwise gain. We learn self-direction or humility; we learn to cast our care on Him who cares for us; we learn to be grateful for every kindness that others can do us, and to respect all forms of life, and call no man common.

JAMES FREEMAN CLARKE.

Be thou in the fear of the Lord all the day long. — PROV. xxiii. 17.

So here hath been dawning
Another blue day ;
Think, wilt thou let it
Slip useless away ?

Out of eternity
This new day is born ;
Into eternity
At night doth return.

THOMAS CARLYLE.

THE misspents of every minute are a new record against us in heaven. Sure, if we thought thus, we should dismiss them with better reports, and not suffer them to fly away empty, or laden with dangerous intelligence. How happy is it when they carry up not only the message, but the fruits of good, and stay with the Ancient of Days to speak for us before His glorious throne.

JOHN MILTON.

He satisfieth the longing soul, and filleth the hungry soul with goodness. — Ps. cvii. 9.

MORE than our feeble hearts can ever pine
For holiness,
The Father, in His tenderness divine,
Yearneth to bless.

FRANCES POWER COBBE.

A ROOT set in the finest soil, in the best climate, and blessed with all that sun and air and rain can do for it, is not in so sure a way of its growth to perfection, as every man may be whose spirit aspires after all that which God is ready and infinitely desirous to give him. For the sun meets not the springing bud that stretches toward him with half that certainty as God, the source of all good, communicates Himself to the soul that longs to partake of Him.

WILLIAM LAW.

And He said, Come. — MATT. xiv. 29.

“COME unto me, ye weary,
And I will give you rest.”
O blessed voice of Jesus,
Which comes to hearts oppressed !
It tells of benediction,
Of pardon, grace, and peace,
Of joy that hath no ending,
Of love which cannot cease.

CHRIST says, “Come unto me, ye weary and heavy-laden, — come, and I will teach you how to live, so that life shall be no more a failure; I will guide you to living fountains. Follow me, and ye shall find rest for your souls.” And who doubts that promise? Who does not know that the misery of his life is in the disorder and anarchy of his soul, not in his outward lot? Who does not know that redemption from human misery must begin in a regeneration of the soul, in the awakening of its true life, and in the consecration of it to God?

EPHRAIM PEABODY.

But to do good and to communicate forget not. — HEB. xiii. 16.

A HEART-FELT smile, a gentle tone,
A thoughtful word, a tender touch,
A passing act of kindness done, —
'T is all, but it is much.

These are not things to win applause,
No earthly fame awaiteth such;
But surely by the heavenly laws
They are accounted much.

KIND looks, kind words, kind acts, and warm hand-shakes, — these are secondary means of grace when men are in trouble, and are fighting their unseen battles.

JOHN HALL.

KINDNESS has converted more sinners than either zeal, eloquence, or learning.

FREDERICK WILLIAM FABER.

In Him we live, and move, and have our being. — ACTS xvii. 28.

THOU knowest me altogether ; I knew not
Thy likeness till Thou mad'st it manifest.
There is no world but is Thy heaven ; no spot
Remote ; Creation leans upon Thy breast ;
Thou art beyond all stars, yet in my heart
Wonderful whisperings hold Thy creatures dumb ;
I need not search afar ; to me Thou art
Father, Redeemer, and Renewer, — come !

JEAN INGELow.

HE is very near every one of us ; is the inspiration of every thought that seeks Him ; is approachable by every soul that would be lifted higher, with the symbols if they aid, without them if one choose. He is the great fountain of influence, filling human life and thought with power of development.

HENRY WARD BEECHER.

*The Lord is faithful, who shall stablish you
and keep you. — 2 THESS. iii. 3.*

LORD, hearts are willing, but the flesh is weak,
Thou knowest ; help us in Thy strength divine
Ever to watch, to pray, to hear Thee speak,
And to Thy loving hands ourselves resign,
Now and always.

MARGARET E. SANGSTER.

WHY should we give ourselves grudgingly,
or of necessity, to the love of God ?
Why hesitate and tremble, and think we are
not good enough to love Him, or to be loved
by Him ? Love does not hesitate. Love leaves
all, and follows.

JAMES FREEMAN CLARKE.

Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed. —
2 TIM. ii. 15.

ONE by one thy duties wait thee,
Let thy whole heart go to each,
Let no future dream elate thee,
Learn thou first what these can teach.

ADELAIDE ANNE PROCTER.

THE consciousness of duty performed gives
us music at midnight.

GEORGE HERBERT.

DO thy duty, and be at peace with God and thine own conscience. There can be no true peace for thee apart from the honest and daily discharge of those obligations, great and small, which come into thy life from the Creator, and which, rightly viewed, are angels of divine discipline. Thou hast too much to say about thy rights, and thinkest too little about thy duties. Thou hast but one inalienable right; and that is the sublime one of doing thy duty at all times, under all circumstances, and in all places.

FREDERIC R. MAROIN.

Ye are all the children of light and the children of the day. — 1 THESS. v. 5.

IF one looks upon the bright side,
It is sure to be the right side,
At least that's how I've found it as I've journeyed
through each day.
And it's queer how shadows vanish,
And how easy 't is to banish
From a bright side sort of nature every doleful thing
away.

MARY D. BRINE.

THERE are souls in the world who have the gift of finding joy everywhere, and leaving it behind them when they go. Their influence is an inevitable gladdening of the heart. They give light without meaning to shine. Their bright hearts have a great work to do for God.

FREDERICK W. FABER.

THE habit of looking at the best side of any event is worth far more than a thousand pounds a year.

SAMUEL JOHNSON.

Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth. — MATT. v. 5.

HE that is down need fear no fall,
He that is low no pride;
He that is humble ever shall
Have God to be his guide.

I am content with what I have,
Little be it or much;
And, Lord, contentment still I crave,
Because Thou savest such.

JOHN BUNYAN.

HE and he only possesses the earth as he goes toward heaven, by being humble and cheerful, and content with what his good God has allotted him. He has no turbulent, repining, vexatious thoughts that he deserves better; nor is he vexed when he sees others possessed of more honor or more riches than his wise God has allotted for his share. But he possesses what he has with a meek and contented quietness. God has two dwellings, — one in heaven, and the other in a meek and thankful heart.

IZAACK WALTON.

I will fear no evil, for Thou art with me. —
Ps. xxiii. 4.

IN Heavenly Love abiding,
No change my heart shall fear,
And safe is such confiding,
For nothing changes here.
The storm may roar without me,
My heart may low be laid,
But God is round about me,
And can I be dismayed?

ANNA LÆTITIA WARING.

JUST suppose that we could get rid of all unnecessary and previous terror; just suppose that we could be sure of final victory in every conflict, and final emergence out of every shadow into brightest day; how our hearts would be lightened, how much more bravely we should work and fight and march forward! This is the courage to which we are entitled, and which we may find in the thought that God is with us everywhere. The course of our journey has been appointed by Him; He knows the way even through the darkness.

HENRY VAN DYKE.

Look unto Me, and be ye saved; . . . for I am God, and there is none else. — ISA. xlv. 22.

THINK thou, O mariner, on the deathless joy
Of voyaging toward a beacon that shall save
Both thee and me, nor any death destroy.

ANNIE FIELDS.

THE true home for us lies beyond those waters, and, oh! the rudder needs a firm hand, and the voyager a stout heart. So, then, whatever our voyage may hitherto have been, when we have gazed from the stern on the shores that fade behind us, and afterwards, as we turn away again to look on the misty uncertainties of all that may assist us in our future course, let us pray that touching prayer of the Breton mariners, "Save us, O God! Thine ocean is so large, and our little boat so small."

FREDERIC W. FARRAR.

*Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men,
and He will dwell with them. — REV. xxi. 3.*

How far from here to heaven?
Not very far, my friend;
A single, hearty step
Will all thy journey end.
Hold then! Where runnest thou?
Heaven is within thee.
Seek'st thou for God elsewhere,
His face thou 'lt never see.

ANGELUS SILESIVS.

IF that thou seekest thou findest not within
thee, thou wilt never find it without thee.

Arabian.

MOSES asked of God where He was, and
God said: "Know that when thou hast sought
me, thou hast already found me."

Arabian.

Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord. — HEB. xii. 14.

WE do not need to dwell apart
From earthly cares of hand and heart,
Nor seek some chapel sweet and dim,
To meet our Lord and talk with Him.
Where'er with patience we fulfil
The purpose of the Father's will,
His presence makes that holy place
A temple where we see His face.
A cradle-side may ofttime be
An altar; and the ministry
Of homely toil is dearer far
To Christ than idle anthems are.

WHENEVER you will try to do your duty trusting in God; whenever you will forgive those whom you think have injured you, and do good to those who treat you with seeming scorn; when you will put out of your heart envy and low ambition, poor vanity, self-conceit, and give yourself to what is generous, true, and lovely, — you will discover that Christ has already come.

JAMES FREEMAN CLARKE.

That the Lord thy God may bless thee in all the work of thine hand which thou doest. —

DEUT. xiv. 29.

No earnest work
Of any honest creature, howbeit weak,
Imperfect, ill-adapted, fails so much
It is not gathered, as a grain of sand,
To enlarge the sum of human action used
For carrying out God's plan.

ELIZABETH BARRETT BROWNING.

Our life is but a little holding, lent
To do a mighty labor. We are one
With heaven and the stars when it is spent
To serve God's aim.

GEORGE MEREDITH.

FIND your niche, and fill it. If it be ever
so little, if it is only to be hewer of wood
or drawer of water, do something in this great
battle for God and truth.

SPURGEON.

If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me. — LUKE ix. 23.

MINE is a daily cross of petty cares,
O! little duties pressing on my heart,
Of little troubles hard to reconcile,
Of inward troubles overcome in part.

I dare not lay it down; I only ask
That, taking up my daily cross, I may
Follow my Master, humbly, step by step,
Through clouds and darkness, unto perfect day.

CHRIST comes to us morning by morning to present to us for the day then opening divers little crosses, thwartings of our own will, interferences with our plans, disappointments of our little pleasures. Do we kiss them, and take them up and follow in his rear, like Simon the Cyrenian, or do we toss them from us scornfully because they are so little, and wait for some great affliction to approve our patience and resignation to His will? Despise not little crosses; for when taken up and lovingly accepted at the Lord's hand, they have made men meet for a great crown, even the crown of righteousness and life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love Him.

EDWARD MEYRICK GOULDBURN.

And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him.—
I JOHN iv. 16.

THEY only miss
The winning of that perfect bliss.

Who will not count it true that love,
Blessing, not cursing, rules above,
And that in it we live and move.

RICHARD CHENEVIX TRENCH.

ALL you need strive for is to love God more, — more singly and simply; to still the human actings and impulses of your being in Him. Love is of God; it is a divine gift. Do not seek to crush it; seek to keep it steadfast, and seek to help others by love, by letting their love for you draw them upward and closer to God, the Fount of all love.

HARRIET MONSELL.

He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love. — I JOHN iv. 8.

GOD is love, saith the Evangel; and our world of woe
and sin
Is made light and happy only when a love is shining
in.

JOHN GREENLEAF WHITTIER.

HAVE patience with our loss and pain,
Our troubled space of days so small,
We shall not reach our arms in vain,
For Love shall save us all.

CELIA THAXTER.

THE pressure of a hand, a kiss, the caress of
a child, will do more to save sometimes
than the wisest argument even rightly understood. Love alone is wisdom; love alone is power. And where love seems to fail, it is where self has stepped between and dulled the potency of its rays.

GEORGE MACDONALD.

*Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst
after righteousness ; for they shall be filled. —*

MATT. v. 6.

THE body is not much. 'T were best
Take up the soul and leave the rest.
It seems to me the man who leaves
The soul to perish is as one
Who gathers up the empty sheaves
When all the golden grain is done.

JOAQUIN MILLER.

THE more the soul withdraws, so to speak,
from the body, and retires within itself,
the more it rises above itself ; and the more
closely it cleaves to God, the more the life it
lives on this earth resembles that which it will
enjoy in heaven, and the larger foretaste it has
of the first fruits of that blessed harvest. As-
pire, therefore, to holiness, without which no
man shall see the Lord.

ARCHBISHOP LEIGHTON.

I have chosen thee in the furnace of affliction. —
ISA. xlviii. 10.

WHO watched the artist paint a porcelain cup
Did wonder when he gathered brushes up,
And said, "My task is done,"
That on the toy's fine rim,
A border black and grim
Contrasted hatefully with gentle tint
Of pink and azure, blond and beryl hint,
And mocked those threads of sun,
That made the cup a prize
To ravish royal eyes.

"Why leave this scowl of black?" one dared inquire.
The artist answered, "Clay must taste the fire,
And by that test be tried."
Snatched from the furnace heat,
Transfigured and complete,
The dazzling gift comes crowned with aureole gleam,
Its black all changed to gold. So, like a dream,
Heart said to heart that sighed,
Grief may be joy at last,
When life's fierce test has passed.

THE child of God is assured that all things
work together for good; in this is plainly
included the pledge that chastisements and af-
flictions shall eventually prove a blessing.

J. W. ALEXANDER.

The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy. — GAL. v. 22.

SO take joy home,
And make a place in thy great heart for her,
And give her time to grow, and cherish her.
Then will she come, and oft will say to thee
When thou art working in the furrows, — ay,
Or weeding in the sacred hour of dawn,
It is a comely fashion to be glad,
Joy is the grace we say to God.

JEAN INGELow.

ALL god-like things are joyous. They have
touched God, and so they carry with
them an irresistible gladness everywhere.

FREDERICK W. FABER.

Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. — MATT. vii. 21.

“WHAT shall I do to be forever known?”

“Thy duty ever;”

“Thus did full many who yet slept unknown,” —

“Oh! never, never;

Thinkest thou perchance that they remain alone,

Whom thou know'st not?

By angel trumps in heaven their praise is blown;

Divine their lot!”

“What shall I do to gain eternal life?”

“Discharge aright

The simple dues with which each day is rife,

Yea, with thy might,

Ere perfect scheme of action thou devise,

Will life be fled,

While he who ever acts as conscience cries

Shall live, though dead.”

FRIEDRICH VON SCHILLER.

ASK God to show you your duty, and then
do that duty well; and from that point
you mount to the very peak of vision.

EDWARD EVERETT HALE.

Hereby know we that we dwell in Him, and He in us, because He hath given us of His Spirit. — 1 JOHN iv. 13.

ALONE with Thee, my God ! alone with Thee !
Thus wouldst Thou have it still, thus let it be ;
There is a secret chamber in each mind
Which none can find
But He who made it ; none beside can know
Its joy or woe.
Oft may I enter it, oppressed by care,
And find Thee there ;
So full of watchful love, Thou knowest the why
Of every sigh.
Then all Thy righteous dealings shall I see,
Alone with Thee, my God ! alone with Thee !

Littell's Living Age.

ONLY in the sacredness of inward silence does the soul truly meet the secret-hiding God. The strength of resolve, which afterwards shapes life and mixes itself with action, is the fruit of those sacred, solitary moments when we meet God alone.

FREDERICK WILLIAM ROBERTSON.

Rich toward God. — LUKE xii. 21.

RICHEST are they
That live for Christ so well,
The longest day
Would scarce suffice to tell
In what wide ways their benefactions fell.

RICH with no very great things, but with the little daily self-denials, the speaking a cheerful word when the heart is weary, the patient, steady performance of duties that come with every returning day, — little things, and yet they contain the riches with which God is well pleased.

ROSE PORTER.

WHERE there is most of God, there is least of self.

BENJAMIN WHICHCOTE.

For none of us liveth to himself. — ROM. xiv. 7.

I LIVE for those who love me,
For those who know me true,
For the heaven that smiles above me,
And awaits my spirit too,
For the cause that lacks assistance,
For the wrongs that need resistance,
For the future in the distance,
For the good that I can do.

INFLUENCE is as inseparable from character as the fragrance is from the flower, or the shadow from the substance. Every one that lives, therefore, lives not merely unto himself, but has a subtle effluence always radiating from him that produces some effect on others. On the rocks beneath us you will find the impress of the tiniest insect as well as that of the largest megatherium; and so in the strata of society, each man has his own place to fill, and will leave his own mark behind for blessing or for the reverse.

WILLIAM M. TAYLOR.

Be thou an example . . . in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity. —
1 TIM. iv. 12.

FOR no one doth know
What he can bestow ;
What light, strength, and beauty may after him go :
Thus onward we move,
And save God above,
None guesseth how wondrous the journey may prove.

OTHERS are affected by what I am and say and do. And these others have also their sphere of influence. So that a single act of mine may spread in widening circles through a nation or humanity.

WILLIAM ELLERY CHANNING.

THE doors of your soul are open on others, and theirs on you. Simply to be in this world, whatever you are, is to exert an influence, — an influence compared with which mere language and persuasion are feeble.

HORACE BUSHNELL.

If ye love me, keep my commandments. — JOHN
xiv. 15.

DOE as thou wouldst be done unto ;
Love God, and love thy neighbor ; watch and pray.
These are the words and works of life ; this do,
And live ; who doth not this hath lost heav'n's way.
HENRY VAUGHAN.

WHEN a man is told that the whole of religion and morality is summed up in the two commandments, — to love God and to love our neighbor, he is ready to cry, like Charoba in Gebir, at the first sight of the sea, "Is this the mighty ocean? Is this all?" Yes, all ; but how small a part of it do your eyes survey ! Only trust yourself to it, launch out upon it, sail abroad over it, you will find it has no end ; it will carry you round the world.

JULIUS HARE.

Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy. — MATT. v. 7.

TEACH me to feel another's woe,
To hide the fault I see;
That mercy I to others show,
That mercy show to me.

ALEXANDER POPE.

NO one thing does human life more need than a kind consideration of men's faults. Every one sins; every one needs forbearance. Their own imperfections should teach men to be merciful. God is merciful because He is perfect. As men grow toward the Divine, they become gentle, forgiving, compassionate. The absence of a merciful spirit is evidence of the want of true holiness. A soul that has really entered into the life of Christ carries in itself a store of nourishment, and a cordial for helpless souls around it.

HENRY WARD BEECHER.

It doth not yet appear what we shall be. —

1 JOHN iii. 2.

HAVE we not all, amid life's petty strife,
Some pure ideal of a noble life
That once seemed possible? Did we not hear
The flutter of its wings, and feel it near,
And just within our reach? It was; and yet
We lost it in this daily jar and fret,
And now live idle in a vague regret;
But still *our place is kept*, and it will wait,
Ready for us to fill it soon or late.

ADELAIDE ANNE PROCTER.

THERE is no joy, there is no beauty, there
is no glory of living or acting, no supreme moment you can picture in your dreams, that is not in your life as God sees it, stirring in the intuition you have of it now, waiting for you in the glorious fulfilment that shall be there.

ADELINE D. T. WHITNEY.

*And the work of righteousness shall be peace;
and the effect of righteousness, quietness and
assurance forever. — ISA. xxxii. 17.*

FOLLOW with reverent steps the great example
Of Him whose holy work was “doing good;”
So shall the wide earth seem our Father’s temple,
Each loving life a psalm of gratitude.

JOHN GREENLEAF WHITTIER.

TO remedy evil, to strive for good, not to neglect the little daily duties and beneficences of life, the gracious acts, the tender courtesies, the tolerant appreciations, — in one word, to love God and our neighbor, and to believe on the name of Jesus Christ, and to love one another as He gave us commandment, — this is to live as Christ lived on earth.

FREDERIC WILLIAM FARRAR.

Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope. — ROM. xv. 13.

AH! yet when all is thought and said,
The heart still overrules the head;
Still what we hope we must believe,
And what is given us receive;

Must still believe, for still we hope
That in a world of larger scope,
What here is faithfully begun
Will be completed, not undone.

ARTHUR HUGH CLOUGH.

ALL which happens through the whole world, happens through hope. No husbandman would sow a grain of corn if he did not hope it would spring up and bring forth the ear. How much more we are helped on by hope in the way to eternal life.

MARTIN LUTHER.

Verily I say unto you, Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child, he shall not enter therein. — MARK X. 15.

Do like a child, and lean and rest
Upon thy Father's arm ;
Pour out thy troubles on His breast,
And thou shalt know no harm.
Then shalt thou by His hand be brought
By ways which now thou knowest not,
Up through a well-fought fight,
To heavenly peace and light.

PAUL GERHARDT.

O FATHER, who art all in all perfect beyond the longing of Thy children, — and we are all and altogether Thine, — Thou wilt make us pure and loving and free. We shall stand fearless in Thy presence, because perfect in Thy love. Oh ! let the heart of a child be given to us, that we may arise from the grave of our dead selves, and die no more, but see face to face the God of the living.

GEORGE MACDONALD.

He leadeth me. — Ps. xxiii. 2.

THROUGH many a thorny path He leads
 My tired feet,
Through many a path of tears I go;
 But it is sweet
To know that He is close to me,
 My God, my Guide;
He leadeth me, and so I walk
 Quite satisfied.

LIKE Alpine climbers, our only safety is in steadfastly fixing our gaze on Him, our Guide, and following step by step the path He trod, that He might know all the dangers and difficulties that beset our way. And we may be sure He will never lead us further or faster than we can safely follow.

ROSE PORTER.

Now we exhort you, brethren, warn them that are unruly, comfort the feeble-minded, support the weak, be patient toward all men. — I THESS. V. 14.

WHAT are we set on earth for ? Say, to toil,
Nor seek to leave the tending of the vines ;
For all the heat o' day till it declines
And death's mild curfew shall from work assoil.
God did anoint thee with His odorous oil
To wrestle, not to reign ; and He assigns
All thy tears over like pure crystallines
For younger fellow-workers of the soil
To wear for amulets. So others shall
Take patience, labor to their heart and hand,
From thy hand and thy heart and thy brave cheer ;
And God's grace fructify through thee to all,
The least flower with a brimming cup may stand
And share its dew-drop with another near.

ELIZABETH BARRETT BROWNING.

EVERY man and woman trying to be honest, pure, and helpful in this world finds that the very highest work set before them is self-sacrifice. Very few of us have the chance of heroic self-devotion, but every day brings the petty, wearing sacrifice which weighs full weight in God's scales.

SAMUEL OSGOOD.

Withhold not good from them to whom it is due. — PROV. iii. 27.

BE quick to praise, be slow to scorn,
For what the future holds, — who knows?
To-day the vine has but a thorn,
To-morrow brings the rose.

THERE are a few hardy souls that can struggle on stony soil, shrubs that can wait for the dew and sunbeams, vines that will climb without kindly training, — but only a few. Utter the kind word when you can, give the helping praise when you see it is deserved. The thought that “no one knows and no one cares” blights many a bud of promise.

I will help thee, saith the Lord. — ISA. xli. 14.

THERE ran a whisper through the listening sky,
 “Look up and fear not, do thy work in joy;
 Train nerve and sinew in the glad employ
Of simple souls that neither strive nor cry;
 Drink happy draughts of love that will not cloy;
Life shall not fail thee, for thy Lord is nigh.”

WHEN do we lift each other up? Must we gain a height first, or can we reach up our feebleness together to the Hands that do offer us a mighty help from on high? Near-doing, and near-living, and near-loving, these life particles make the great heaven, as the little polarized atoms of light, all magnetized one way, make the great blue in which the stars burn forever.

ADELINE T. D. WHITNEY.

Freely ye have received, freely give. — MATT.
x. 8.

THE Hand that strews the earth with flowers,
Enriched the marriage feast with wine;
The Hand once pierced for sins of ours,
This morning made the dew-drops shine.

It freely gives its very best,
Not barely what the need may be,
But for the joy of making blest;
Teach us to love and give like Thee.

Not narrowly men's claims to measure,
But daily question all our powers, —
"To whose cup can we add a pleasure,
Whose path can we make bright with flowers?"

ELIZABETH CHARLES.

OPPORTUNITIES come reaching out their
hands to us every moment, not to do
great things perhaps, but for the

"Little, daily, unremembered acts
Of kindness and of love,"

that take off the chill from our undemonstra-
tive matter-of-fact intercourse with one another,
and keep our hearts from starvation.

LUCY LARCOM.

Let the Lord do that which is good in His sight. — 1 CHRON. xix. 13.

OUR one sure safety we reject and miss,
When once we make our good the test of His.
His final ends surpass our feeble sense,
His plan is greater than our preference.
Who told us we had any right to bliss?
Our tears are but our arrogant conceit, —
Two things that grow and yield the sweetest sweet;
The lofty cocoa-palm and sugar-cane
As well on waters salt as on fresh rain
Will thrive, and in their sap and fruit complete
No lurking taste of bitter will remain.

H. H.

REST satisfied that whatever is by the appointment of Heaven is right, is best.

JAMES HERVEY.

I FOUND it better for my soul to be humble before the mysteries o' God's dealings, and not be making a clatter about what I could never understand.

GEORGE ELIOT.

Ye know not what shall be on the morrow. —

JAMES iv. 14.

SEEK not to know to-morrow's doom ;
That is not ours which is to come,
The present moment's all our store.

CONGREVE.

WE often distress ourselves greatly in the apprehension of misfortune which after all never happens at all. We should do our best, and wait calmly the result. We often hear of people breaking down from overwork ; but in nine cases out of ten they are really suffering from worry or anxiety.

SIR JOHN LUBBOCK.

Let me depart, that I may go to mine own country. — 1 KINGS xi. 21.

FOR strangers into life we come,
And dying is but going home.

HOW can a great soul be happy here? Those who have been amid mountains, and are condemned to live on plains, die of an incurable nostalgia. It is because we have issued from above that we sigh for it, and that all music is to us a reminiscence of our home, — a *ranz des vaches* to the exiled Swiss. An infinite love supposes an infinite object. If all the forests were pleasure-parks, and all the isles were fortunate isles, and all the fields were elysian, and all eyes were full of joy, oh ! then — But no ; then the Infinite Being must have assured us that such felicity would be perpetual. But now that so many houses are houses of mourning, so many fields are fields of battle, so many faces are pale, so many eyes are dulled with tears and closed, — when things are thus, how can the tomb be the end of all ?

JEAN PAUL RICHTER.

I would have you without carefulness. — I COR.
vii. 32.

BOWED with a burden none can weigh save Thee,
Strength of my life, on Thee I cast my care;
My heart must prove its own infirmity,
But what shall move me if my God is there.

ANNA LÆTITIA WARING.

DO you know the blessing of rolling all
your cares on God? He can bind up
the broken-hearted, and comfort all who mourn.
He is ever near, calling us to come to Him, and
by meekness and holiness of heart find rest
and peace.

MARIA HARE.

HE stands very insecurely who does not cast
all his cares upon Thee.

THOMAS À KEMPIS.

For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear ; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. — ROM. viii. 15.

O LOVE, Thy sovereign aid impart,
To save me from low-thoughted care;
Chase this self-will through all my heart,
Through all its latent mazes there;
Make me Thy duteous child, that I
Ceaseless may “ Abba, Father ” cry !

GERHARD TERSTEEGEN.

WHAT we need is the spirit of adoption, whereby we cry Abba, Father. Then there will be no more fear, — neither fear of man, nor fear of God, nor fear of sin, nor fear of death, nor fear of what follows death. When we are God’s children, living in our Father’s house, reconciled to Him, at peace with Him, with His love shed abroad in our hearts, then all fear is taken away ; then our work is easy, our way onward.

JAMES FREEMAN CLARKE.

In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct thy paths. — PROV. iii. 6.

BEING in doubt, I say,
Lord, make it plain !
Which is the truly safe way ?
Which would be vain ?
I am not wise to know,
Nor sure of foot to go ;
My blind eyes cannot see
What is so clear to Thee,
Lord, make it clear to me !

ANNA B. WARNER.

WE only lose our way when we choose our own aim. Whoever seeks God's will alone finds it everywhere, whithersoever God's providence leads him ; and so he never goes astray. True resignation, having no selfish path, and no aim at self-pleasing, goes always straight on as God pleases.

FÉNELON.

The Lord is nigh unto all them that call upon Him, to all that call upon Him in truth.—
Ps. cxlv. 18.

THE heart's unspoken pain He knows,
The secret sighs He hears full well,
What to none else thou darest disclose,
To Him thou mayst with boldness tell;
He is not far away, but ever nigh,
And answereth willingly the poor man's cry.

PAUL GERHARDT.

THE Lord can prevent trouble, or remove trouble; but what is best of all, He can sanctify troubles, making them real blessings, and that is what He out of infinite love generally chooses to do.

Christian's Pocket-book.

*In the fear of the Lord is strong confidence,
and His children shall have a place of refuge. —*

PROV. xiv. 26.

HAVE faith in God; for He who reigns on high
Hath borne thy grief, and hears the suppliant's sigh;
Still to His arms thy only refuge fly, —
Have faith in God.

ANNA SHIPTON.

TRUST Him; trust Him about every one and
everything, for all times and all needs;
earth and heaven, the conquest of sin, the
growth of holiness, the cross that chafes, the
grace that stirs. To trust God glorifies and
honors Him.

THOROLD.

And who is my neighbor? — LUKE x. 29.

O MAN, forget not thou, earth's honored priest !
Its tongue, its soul, its life, its pulse, its heart,
In earth's great chorus to sustain thy part ;
Chiefest of guests at Love's ungrudging feast,
Play not the niggard, spurn the native clod,
And self disown ;
Live to thy neighbor, live unto thy God,
Not to thyself alone.

S. W. PARTRIDGE.

WHAT is meant by our neighbor we cannot doubt ; it is every one with whom we are brought in contact. It is every one who is thrown across our path by the changes and chances of life ; he or she, whosoever it be, whom we have any means of helping, — the unfortunate stranger whom we may meet in travelling, the deserted friend whom no one else cares to look after.

ARTHUR PENRHYN STANLEY.

How near must a person live to me to be my neighbor ? Every person is near to you whom you can bless. He is nearest whom you can bless most.

WILLIAM ELLERY CHANNING.

The Lord thy God shall bless thee in all thy works, and in all that thou puttest thine hand unto. — DEUT. xv. 10.

WHAT is our duty here? To tend
From good to better, thence to best;
Grateful to drink life's cup; then bend
Unmurmuring to our bed of rest;
To pluck the flowers that round us blow,
Scattering our fragrance as we go.

SIR J. BOWRING.

TO make some nook of God's creation a little fruitfuller, better, more worthy of God, to make some human hearts a little wiser, manfuller, happier, more blessed, less accursed,—it is a work for a god.

THOMAS CARLYLE.

Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love. — ROM. xii. 10.

To bless mankind with tithes of flowing wealth,
With rank to grace them, or to crown with health,
Our little lot denies; yet liberal still,
God gives its counterpoise to every ill;
Nor let us murmur at our stinted powers
When kindness, love, and concord may be ours.
The gift of minist'ring to others' ease,
To all her sons impartial Heaven decrees;
The gentle offices of patient love,
Beyond all flattery and all praise above;
The mild forbearance at a brother's fault,
The angry word suppressed, the taunting thought.

HANNAH MORE.

WOULD we only endeavor to take God's view of those among whom we dwell, and among whom our daily intercourse lies, how gentle, how patient, how earnest in all good works and kind offices, how averse from everything that could give offence should we be.

ANDREW P. PEABODY.

Strait is the gate and narrow is the way which leadeth unto life. — MATT. vii. 14.

THIS world is but the rugged road
Which leads us to the bright abode
Of peace above;
So let us choose the narrow way
Which leads no traveller astray
From realms of love.

HENRY WADSWORTH LONGFELLOW.

I SEE not but that my road to heaven lieth
through this very valley.

JOHN BUNYAN.

THE denial of self leads to the narrow way.

And their works do follow them. — REV. xiv.
13.

NAY, rather act thy part unnamed, unknown,
And let Fame blow her trumpet through the world
With noisy wind to swell a fool's renown,
Joined with some truth he stumbled blindly o'er,
Or coupled with some single, shining deed
That in the great account of all his days
Will stand alone upon the bankrupt sheet
His pitying angel shows the clerk of heaven.
The noblest service comes from nameless hands,
And the best servant does his work unseen.

OLIVER WENDELL HOLMES.

IS it only those who are great, or those only who are splendidly good, whose works do follow them? God forbid. Are there not, as He Himself has told us, such little things as the widow's mite and the cup of cold water given for His sake? There is a greatness in unknown names, there is an immortality of quiet duties attainable by the meanest of mankind.

FREDERIC WILLIAM FARRAR.

Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me ; for I am meek and lowly in heart : and ye shall find rest unto your souls. — MATT. xi. 29.

I REST by serving at Thy will,
Thy yoke is easy, and Thy burden light ;
And peace grows deep and deeper still
As my obedience proves Thy might.

I hold my powers alone for Thee,
Use them in loving errands of Thy grace ;
And calm me, though I may not see
Thy methods, as before Thy face.

THE rest of Christ is not that of torpor, but of harmony ; it is not refusing the struggle, but conquering in it ; not resting from duty, but finding rest in duty.

FREDERICK WILLIAM ROBERTSON.

Blessed is that man that maketh the Lord his trust.— Ps. xl. 4.

JUST to trust and yet to ask
Guidance still,
Take the training or the task
As He will.
Just to take the loss or gain
As He sends it;
Just to take the joy or pain
As He lends it.
This is all and yet the way
Marked by Him who loves thee best;
Secret of a happy day,
Secret of His promised rest.

FRANCES RIDLEY HAVERGAL.

IF you go to Him to be guided, He will guide you; but He will not comfort your distrust or half-trust of Him by showing you the chart of all His purposes concerning you. He will only show you into a way where, if you go cheerfully and trustfully forward, He will show you on still farther. No contract will be made with you save that He engages, if you trust Him, to lead you into the best things all the way through.

HORACE BUSHNELL.

*Thou hast dealt well with Thy servant, O
Lord, according unto Thy word.* — Ps. cxix. 65.

BENEATH the splendor of Thy choice,
Thy perfect choice for me, I rest;
Outside it now I dare not live,
Within it I must needs be blest.

JEAN SOPHIA PIGOTT.

I WOULD rather be what God chose to make
me than the most glorious creature that I
could think of. For to have been thought
about, — born in God's thoughts, — and then
made by God, is the dearest, grandest, most
precious thing in all thinking.

GEORGE MACDONALD.

In your patience possess ye your souls. — LUKE
xxi. 19.

HOLD in thy murmurs Heaven arraigning !
The patient see God's loving face ;
Who bear their burdens uncomplaining,
'T is they that win the Father's grace.

THE soul loses command of itself when it is impatient. Whereas, when it submits without a murmur, it possesses itself in peace, and possesses God. To be impatient is to desire what we have not, or not to desire what we have. An impatient soul is a prey to passions unrestrained by reason or faith. What weakness, what delusion ! When we acquiesce in an evil, it is no longer such. Why make a real calamity of it by resistance ? Peace does not dwell in outward things, but within the soul. We may preserve it in the midst of bitterest pain if our will remains firm and submissive. Peace in this life springs from acquiescence even in disagreeable things, not in an exemption from bearing them.

FÉNELON.

Trust in Him at all times. — Ps. lxii. 8.

I KNOW not what my life shall hold
Of love or light,
Only that safe within the fold
It shall be right;
I only seek to find the ways
His feet have pressed;
And feel through fair or darker days
He knoweth best.

M. M. B.

WHATEVER our needs, He can supply them, for He is God. He will supply them, for He is love. Only let us believe, and our joy and blessedness shall be full. Let us honor God by trusting Him entirely. Let us be as willing to receive as He is to bestow.

THOROLD.

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom. — COL. iii. 16.

'T IS not the skill of human art
Which gives me power my God to know ;
The sacred lessons of the heart
Come not from instruments below ;
Love is my teacher.

MADAME GUYON.

EVERY great teacher or leader lays stress on some single word of might, — the key, as it were, to his position. Buddha's great word was "renunciation ;" Zoroaster's, "purity." Menu's was "justice." The key to Confucius is "moderation." Moses emphasized "law ;" Plato, "harmony ;" Socrates, "reason." The strong word of Epictetus was "reliance ;" of Antoninus, "self-possession." But Jesus gives us the key to the inner chamber of His heart in a single, mighty, sweet word, — "love."

O. B. FROTHINGHAM.

His secret is with the righteous. — PROV. iii. 32.

AH ! if our souls but poise and swing
Like the compass in its brazen ring,
Ever level and ever true,
To the toil and the task we have to do,
We shall sail securely and safely reach
The Fortunate Isles.

HENRY WADSWORTH LONGFELLOW.

THE desire to do right, the will to do right
are not of ourselves, but of the Lord.
He stands ready to give all these in their fullness to all who will receive them.

THEODORE PARSONS.

As he thinketh in his heart, so is he. — PROV.
xxiii. 7.

CALM soul of all things ! make it mine
To feel amid the city's jar,
That there abides a peace of Thine
Man did not make, and cannot mar ;
The will to neither strive nor cry,
The power to feel with others, give.
Calm, calm me more ; nor let me die
Before I have begun to live.

MATTHEW ARNOLD.

MEN seek retreats, houses in the country, seashores and mountains ; and thou too art wont to desire such things very much. But this is altogether a mark of the most common sort of men, for it is in thy power whenever thou shalt choose to retire into thyself. For nowhere either with more quiet or more freedom from trouble does a man retire than into his own soul, particularly when he has within him such thoughts that by looking into them he is immediately in perfect tranquillity.

MARCUS AURELIUS.

The Lord is my shepherd; therefore can I lack nothing. — PSALTER.

SO whether on the hill-tops high and fair
I dwell, or in the sunless valleys where
The shadows lie, What matter ? He is there.

And more than this : where'er the pathway lead,
He gives to me no helpless, broken reed,
But His own hand, sufficient for my need.

So where He leads me I can safely go,
And in the blest hereafter I shall know
Why in His wisdom He hath led me so.

HENRY H. BARRY.

HE is a strict but tender Master ; and on
the way which He leads us are not
only crosses and thorns, but light, and love,
and sympathy, and peace, and at the end —
heaven.

M. K. VINCENT.

See then that ye walk circumspectly. — EPH.
v. 15.

'T IS not for us to trifle ! Life is brief,
And sin is here.
Our age is but the falling of a leaf,
A dropping tear.
We have no time to sport away the hours ;
All should be earnest in a world like ours.

Not many lives, but only one have we, —
Our only one ;
How sacred should that one life ever be ? —
That narrow span :
Day after day filled up with blessed toil,
Hour after hour still bringing in new spoil.

HORATIUS BONAR.

WE have only once to live ; therefore let us
live to some purpose. The day that
dawned this morning will never dawn again.
The opportunities which it brought with it will
never come again ; and if we fail to fill it with
the service it requires of us, there will be no
possibility of returning into it to repair the
mischief. The wheels of Time's chariot have
rachets to them, and they move only forward.

WILLIAM M. TAYLOR.

O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable are His judgments, and His ways past finding out. — ROM. xi. 33.

SAYST thou, I know not how or where,
No help I see where 'er I turn ;
When of all else we most despair,
The riches of God's love we learn ;
When Thou and I His hand no longer trace,
He leads us forth into a pleasant place.

PAUL GERHARDT.

WE never know through what divine mysteries of compensation the great Father of the universe may be carrying out His sublime plans ; but those three words, " God is love," ought to contain, to every doubting heart, the solution of all things.

Changed into the same image from glory to glory. — 2 COR. iii. 18.

AS one lamp lights another, nor grows less,
So nobleness enkindleth nobleness.

JAMES RUSSELL LOWELL.

IN a very simple and literal way he believed that God was his Father, not in name only, but in very truth. He knew that he, in common with every human being, had it in his power to live as a son or as an alien ; and he knew — by that most sure proof, the experience of daily life — that he could only overcome the cravings of selfishness by a constant effort to come into closer union with the life-giving spirit to whom he was truly akin, that so he might not starve, but grow and develop.

Knight-Errant.

Choose you this day whom ye will serve. —

JOSHUA xxiv. 15.

BUT heard are the voices, —

.

“Choose well, your choice is

Brief, and yet endless;

Here eyes do regard you

In eternity's stillness;

Here is all fulness,

Ye brave, to reward you;

Work, and despair not.”

JOHANN WOLFGANG VON GOETHE.

YOU must choose whom you will serve.

You cannot serve God and mammon; you cannot be a friend of Christ and a friend of the world at the same time. The way is narrow and rough, and there is no use saying it is not; but depend upon it, there can be no saving religion without sacrifice and self-denial.

KYLE.

Every man shall receive his own reward according to his own labor. — I COR. iii. 8.

OUR FATHER

Will no gentle deed disdain;
Love, on the cold earth beginning,
Lives divine in heaven again;
While the angel hearts that beat there
Still all tender thoughts retain.

ADELAIDE ANNE PROCTER.

HOW shall we enter when for us the golden gates roll back? Shall we go home as children whose home-coming is not only welcomed and watched for by the heart of Heavenly Fatherhood and the heart of Heavenly Brotherhood, but by many and many a one to whom we have given a smile or a word of love for Christ's sake?

ROSE PORTER.

Except ye . . . become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven. —

MATT. xviii. 3.

EXCEPT your Father lead you,
You cannot find the way
Among the snares and pitfalls,
The lures that lead astray;
Except you be like children,
And hold the skirts of love,
You'll miss the narrow pathway
That leads from earth above.

MARY FRANCES BUTTS.

BLESSED are ye if ye become as a little child, for a child is the visible likeness of the Lord Himself. And there is blessedness in perceiving this truth; the blessing is the truth itself. He who sees the essential in the child—the pure childhood—sees the essence of grace and truth; in a word, real child-likeness.

GEORGE MACDONALD.

Perfect love casteth out fear. — 1 JOHN iv. 18.

AH, soul! look upwards trusting, kiss the rod,
And know there is no might have been with God.
From Him, whenever lowly we draw near,
We learn of love that casteth out all fear;
We find a faith that in oblivion's sea,
Whelms every dread and doubt eternally.

TO love our neighbor is a great help to that perfect love of God which casteth out all fear. Nothing but the love of God will make you love your neighbors aright; and the Spirit of God, which alone gives weight for any good, will by these loves — which are life — strengthen you at last to believe in the light, even in the midst of darkness.

GEORGE MACDONALD.

Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. — HEB. xi. 1.

STRONG Son of God, immortal Love,
Whom we that have not seen Thy face,
By faith and faith alone, embrace,
Believing where we cannot prove.

We have but faith; we cannot know,
For knowledge is of things we see;
And yet we trust it comes from Thee,
A beam in darkness: let it grow.

ALFRED TENNYSON.

WITHOUT faith a man's future is dark and gloomy. The man of true faith never despairs. Faith is, as it were, the eye through which he sees the all-merciful Providence taking care of the least and the most insignificant of His creatures. And hence, in the midst of the severest trials, the believer in God does not lose his heart.

The Bidhanbadi.

They shall mount up with wings. — ISA. xl. 31.

LET us be like the bird for a moment perched
On a frail branch while he sings ;
Though he feels it bend, yet he sings his song,
For he knows that he has wings.

VICTOR HUGO.

THE soul is free. It has wings in the joy of pure emotion, in the upspringing might of faith, in the ardor of heavenly aspiration, in the swift flight of love, in the liberty of exultant hope. Love is always winged. If you would conquer your besetments, rise to a more gracious benevolence, enjoy a livelier consciousness of eternal things, and have your Christian duties delightful ; get the ardent, unselfish, consecrated heart of love through the grace of the Holy Spirit.

HORATIO N. POWERS.

*If we love one another, God dwelleth in us,
and His love is perfected in us. — 1 JOHN iv. 12.*

“MORE blessed ’t is to give than to receive:”

No more, — no mystic dogma to believe,
Only a thread in each day’s life to weave;

Only a common duty, in such wise
Transfigured by new light, that straight my eyes
Saw how above all truth *true loving* lies;

Saw that, forgetful of my own soul’s need,
Filling my life with gracious thought and deed,
I might leave time — and God — to shape my creed.

Littell’s Living Age.

THEY ask me for secrets of salvation. For
myself I know no secrets but this, — to
love God with all our hearts and our neigh-
bor as ourselves.

SAINT FRANCIS DE SALES.

See that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently. — 1 PET. i. 22.

GO cleanse thy heart, and fill
Thy soul with love and goodness.
This is thy task on earth;
This is thy eager manhood's proudest goal,
To cast all meanness and world-worship forth,
And thus exalt thy soul.

ROBERT NICOLL.

WE are here to educate our own hearts by deeds of love, and to be the instruments of blessing to our brother men. There are two ways in which this is to be done, — by guarding them from danger, and by soothing them in their rough path by kindly sympathies; the two things which the Apostles were asked to do for Christ. And it is an encouraging thought, that he who cannot do the one has at least the other in his power. If he cannot protect, he can sympathize. Let the weakest, the humblest, remember that in his daily course he can shed around him almost a heaven. Kindly words, sympathizing attentions, watchfulness against wounding men's sensitiveness, — these cost very little, but they are priceless in their value.

FREDERICK W. ROBERTSON.

The Lord bless thee, and keep thee ; the Lord make His face shine upon thee, and be gracious unto thee. — NUM. vi. 24, 25.

IN having all things, and not Thee, what have I?

Not having Thee, what have my labors got?

Let me enjoy but Thee, what further crave I?

And having Thee alone, what have I not?

I wish nor sea, nor land; nor would I be

Possessed of heaven, heaven unpossessed of Thee.

FRANCIS QUARLES.

THERE is no holiness if the Lord withdraw
His presence; no wisdom if His Spirit
ceases to direct. In our own nature we are as
unsettled as the sand upon the mountain; but
in God we have the stability of the throne in
heaven. Kindle, O Lord, our hearts with light
and life by the holy fire of Thy love and
blessing.

THOMAS À KEMPIS.

*And the Lord make you to increase and
abound in love one toward another, and toward
all men. — 1 THESS. iii. 12.*

If any little word of mine
May make a life the brighter,
If any little song of mine
May make a heart the lighter,
God help me speak the little word,
And take my bit of singing,
And drop it in some lonely vale
To set the echoes ringing.

If any little love of mine
May make a life the sweeter,
If any little care of mine
May make a friend's the fleeter,
If any lift of mine may ease
The burden of another,
God give me love and care and strength
To help my toiling brother.

GOD divided man into men that they might
help each other.

SENECA.

Seekest thou great things? Seek them not. —
JER. xlv. 5.

DAILY struggling, though unloved and lonely,
Every day a rich reward will give;
Thou wilt find by hearty striving only,
And truly loving, thou canst truly live.

HARRIET WINSLOW.

WE need not go through the days of our life seeking our work. God places it within our hands. And yet how often do we make the mistake of asking for a life which shall, in its form and outward course, be more spiritual and divine than that which we are obliged to live. Million occasions will come in the ordinary paths of life, in your houses and by your firesides, wherein you may act as nobly as if all your lives you visited beds of sickness and pain, — occasions varying every hour, in which you may restrain your passions, subdue your hearts to gentleness and patience, resign your own interests for another's advantage, speak words of kindness and wisdom, raise the fallen, cheer the fainting in spirit, and soften and assuage the bitterness and weariness of the mortal lot. These acts are written in the secret book of the great account.

The Lord's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither His ear heavy, that it cannot hear. — ISA. lix. 1.

SIN of courage hath bereft me,
And hath left me
Scarce a spark of faith and hope;
Bitter tears my heart oft sheddeth,
As it dreadeth
I am past Thy mercy's scope.

Peace I cannot find. Oh, take me,
Lord, and make me
From this yoke of evil free;
Calm this longing never sleeping,
Still my weeping,
Give me hope once more in Thee.

GERHARD TERSTEEGEN.

HOW blessed it is to know the character of Him with whom we have to do; pitiful, tender, full of compassion, keeping mercy, plenteous in redemption. We have no idea of His longing to bless; with Him all must be loving, because He is love.

LADY POWERSCOURT.

In righteousness shalt thou be established. —

ISA. liv. 14.

THIS is peace, —

To conquer love of self and lust of life,
To tear deep-rooted passion from the breast,
To still the inward strife ;
For love to clasp eternal beauty close ;
For glory to be lord of self ; for pleasure
To live beyond the gods ; for countless wealth
To lay up lasting treasure
Of perfect service rendered, duties done
In charity, soft speech and stainless days :
These riches shall not fade away with life,
Nor any death dispraise.

EDWIN ARNOLD.

AS whole acres of Persian roses are required to make a single ounce of pure attar, so the soul's balm is the slow product of a long course of right living and thinking, every separate act and thought of which contributes its own minute but precious particle of sweetness to the rich result.

Whosoever will be great among you, shall be your minister ; and whosoever of you will be the chiefest, shall be servant of all. For even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister. — MARK x. 43-45.

WHAT time we nurse our discontent
Rather instead should we recall
How once in servant's guise He went,
Who was the Master of us all;
Nor any work, whereby was wrought
The Father's will, too irksome thought.

Need any be disquieted,
Whose heart this memory inclose ?
Who follows where the Lord hath led,
What matter is it where he goes ;
For working with Him, side by side,
The meanest task is glorified.

MARY BRADLEY.

WE cannot be too little to be like Him, nor
so great as to work outside of Him.

ADELINE D. T. WHITNEY.

Master, what shall I do to inherit eternal life? — LUKE x. 25.

I DO not ask that Thou wilt bless
With gifts of heavenly sort my day,
So much as that my hands may dress
The borders of my lowly way
With constant deeds of good and right,
Thereby reflecting heavenly light.

ALICE CARY.

GOOD deeds will shine as the stars in
heaven.

THOMAS CHALMERS.

GOOD deeds are very fruitful; out of one
good action of ours the Lord produces a thousand, the harvest whereof is perpetual.

BISHOP HALL.

The wind was contrary. — MATT. xiv. 24.

YET I argue not
Against Heaven's hand or will, nor bate a jot
Of heart or hope; but still bear up and steer
Right onward.

JOHN MILTON.

LET us hold on, no matter what we are required to contend against; and let us rest assured that at length Christ will come to us with such strengthening influences that we shall rise to something nobler than without our struggles we could ever have attained. Let us then toil on. It is but a little while at the longest, and no contrary wind can last forever.

WILLIAM M. TAYLOR.

Though He be not far from every one of us. —

ACTS xvii. 27.

HE hides Himself within the love
Of those that we love best;
The smiles and tones that make our homes,
Are shrines by Him possessed.

WILLIAM CHANNING GANNETT.

FOR eternal life, the ideal state, is not something future and distant. Paradise is here visible and tangible by mortal eyes and hands whenever self is lost in loving, whenever the narrow limits of personality are beaten down by the inrush of the Divine Spirit.

MRS. HUMPHREY WARD.

Blessed are they that keep my ways. — PROV.
viii. 32.

AND oh ! in my exceeding weakness,
Make Thy strength perfect ; Thou art strong ;
Aid me to do Thy will with meekness,
Thou, to whom all my powers belong.

IF thou wilt but go on with thy duties, desiring to love, — in such cases the desire of loving is love in His sight, — the irksome dullness and dryness is the thorn in thy flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet thee. But fear not ; God's grace is sufficient for thee ; His strength will be made perfect in thy weakness. Only set yourself in earnest to obey His voice. Say to Him, night and day, " Behold the servant of the Lord ! be it unto me according to Thy word."

JOHN KEBLE.

Then shall we know, if we follow on to know the Lord. — HOSEA vi. 3.

THE task Thy wisdom hath assigned,
Oh, let me cheerfully fulfil !
In all my works Thy presence find,
And prove Thy acceptable will.

CHARLES WESLEY.

LET us remember that we are here each day to do each day's duty with our whole mind, heart, soul, and strength. Let us live in the whole, not in the half. Then, when we go inward to reflect, we put ourselves wholly in that, and find God's love and truth within the soul ; and when we go outward to work or to social intercourse, we put ourselves wholly in that, and find God's presence and inspiration also there. So the inward world and the outward world may be equally filled and animated with the presence and the smile of our Heavenly Father.

JAMES FREEMAN CLARKE.

Let us not be weary in well-doing, for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not. — GAL. vi. 9.

HE liveth long who liveth well,
All else is life but flung away,
He liveth longest who can tell
Of true things truly done each day.

Then fill each day with what will last,
Buy up the moments as they go ;
The life above when this is past,
Is the ripe fruit of life below.

HORATIUS BONAR.

IT is the care of the wise and good man to look to his manners and actions, and rather to how well he lives than to how long ; for whether he shall die sooner or later is not his business, but whether he shall die ill or well.

SENECA.

He that hath a pure heart . . . shall receive the blessing from the Lord. — Ps. xxiv. 4, 5.

O GOD! the pure alone, —
E'en in their deep confessing, —
Can see Thee as their own,
And find the perfect blessing;
Yet to each waiting soul
Speak in Thy still, small voice,
Till broken love's made whole,
And saddened hearts rejoice.

HOW does Jesus make men pure? He made himself one with our human nature that He might heal and bless it through its contact with His divinity. He folded it around His eternal presence. He made it His own. He made it a power which could quicken and restore us; and then by the gift of His Spirit He bound us to it, He robed us in it; and henceforth Christian humanity became conscious of a Presence before which the unclean spirit cannot but shrink away.

CANON LIDDON.

Lo, I am with you alway. — MATT. xxviii. 20.

THE day is long and the day is hard,
We are tired of the march and of keeping guard,
Tired of the sense of a fight to be won,
Of days to live through and work to be done,
Tired of ourselves and of being alone.

And all the while did we only see,
We walk in the dear Lord's company;
We fight, but 't is He who nerves our arm,
He turns the arrows which else might harm,
And out of the storm He brings a calm.

SUSAN COOLIDGE.

DID you not know me, my child? You have thought the thoughts that I inspired; you have spoken my words; you set forth to fight on my side in the battle against evil; and yet you forgot me, and have often gone near to deny me while I was standing by your side, and giving you the strength to speak and think a love which you took to be your own. Look at me now, and see if I am not better than the images that have hid me from you.

ANNIE KEARY.

Even so, Father ; for so it seemed good in Thy sight. — MATT. xi. 26.

FOR naught can come as naught hath been,
But what my Father hath foreseen,
And what shall work my good ;
Whate'er He gives me I will take,
Whate'er He chooses I will make
My choice with thankful mood.

PAUL FLEMMING.

IF God gives us much, we are bound to be thankful and use it for Him. If He gives us but little, we are bound to be content and cheerfully to enjoy Him in it.

MATTHEW HENRY.

One that hath a pleasant voice. — EZEK.
xxxiii. 32.

HER voice was ever soft,
Gentle, and low.

SHAKESPEARE.

THERE is no one thing that love so much needs as a sweet voice to tell what it means and feels. One must start in youth, and be on watch night and day, at work and play, to get and keep a voice that shall speak at all times the thoughts of a kind heart. It is often in youth that one gets a voice or a tone that is sharp, and it sticks to him through life, and stirs up ill-will and grief, and falls like a drop of gall on the sweet joys of home. Watch it day by day as a pearl of great price, for it will be worth more to you than the best pearl hid in the sea. A kind voice is to the heart what light is to the eye; it is a light that sings as well as shines.

ELIHU BURRITT.

Serving the Lord with all humility. — ACTS
XX. 19.

THE bird that soars on highest wing
Builds on the ground her lowly nest;
And she that doth most sweetly sing,
Sings in the shade when all things rest;
In lark and nightingale we see
What honor hath humility.

JAMES MONTGOMERY.

ONLY he who puts on the garment of
humility finds how worthily he clothes
his life.

PHILLIPS BROOKS.

THE Saviour bids us be meek and lowly in
heart; and this meekness is a casting down of
all confidence in self, that from God alone
help may be derived.

FÉNELON.

In nothing be anxious ; but in everything, by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known unto God. —

PHIL. iv. 6 (R. V.).

WHY therefore should we do ourselves this wrong,
Or others, — that we are not always strong ;
That we are ever overborne with care ;
That we should ever weak or heartless be,
Anxious or troubled, when with us is prayer,
And joy and strength and courage are with Thee.

RICHARD CHENEVIX TRENCH.

“ **I**N everything,” says Saint Paul, “let your requests be made known unto God.” For this *everything*, nothing is too small. That it should trouble us is enough. There is some principle involved in it, worth the notice even of God Himself ; for did He not make us so that the thing does trouble us ? And surely for this *everything* nothing can be too great.

GEORGE MACDONALD.

Let the peace of God rule in your hearts. —
COL. iii. 15.

WE ask Thy peace, O Lord !
Through storm and fear and strife,
To light and guide us on
Through a long, struggling life.

ADELAIDE ANNE PROCTER.

WOULD you know the peace of God, realize that you are a part of that Infinite Majesty. Strive to catch now and then a note of the heavenly melody, chant a stray chord of the infinite harmony ; remember that everything beautiful springs from a beauty that is behind it, every strong will rises from a strength underneath, and all your loves are fed from the fountain of infinite love.

JENKIN LLOYD JONES.

The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith. — GAL. v. 22.

Peace is more strong than war, and gentleness,
Where force were vain, makes conquest o'er the
wave ;

And love lives on and hath a power to bless,
When they who loved are hidden in the grave.

JAMES RUSSELL LOWELL.

GENTLENESS diffuses a blessed calm over the nature. Love is the atmosphere of heaven. Long-suffering and meekness counteract all those distresses — and they are innumerable — which arise from pride, anger, and revenge. Peace is but the scriptural name for the entire result of combined and blessed satisfaction in the heart.

J. W. ALEXANDER.

But without faith it is impossible to please Him ; for he that cometh to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him. — HEB. xi. 6.

BUT turn, my soul,
Learn thou the beauty of omniscient care ;
Be strong in faith, bid anxious thoughts lie still ;
Seek for the good and cherish it ; the ill
Oppose, or bear with a submissive will.

WILLIAM WORDSWORTH.

TO me, I confess, it seems a very considerable thing just to believe in God ; difficult indeed to avoid honestly, but not easy to accomplish worthily, and impossible to compass to perfection ; a thing not lightly to be professed, but rather humbly sought ; not to be found at the end of any syllogism, but in the inmost fountains of purity and affection ; not the sudden gift of intellect, but to be earned by a loving and brave life. It is, indeed, the greatest thing allowed to mankind, the germ of every lesser greatness.

ANNE GILCHRIST.

Hearken unto the voice of my cry, my King and my God ; for unto Thee will I pray. — Ps. v. 2.

LORD ! who art merciful as well as just,
Incline Thine ear to me, a child of dust.
Not what I would, O Lord, I offer Thee,
Alas ! but what I am.

Father Almighty, who hast made me man,
And bade me look to heaven, for Thou art there,
Accept my sacrifice and humble prayer.
Four things which are not in Thy treasury
I lay before Thee, Lord, with this petition, —
My nothingness, my wants,
My sins, and my contrition.

ROBERT SOUTHEY.

THE man who can pray truly is richer and more blessed than all others.

CHRYSOSTOM.

The eternal God is thy refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms. — DEUT. xxxiii.
27.

WHAT though the way be rough and steep ?
What though we stumble as the blind ?
There's joy reserved for those who weep,
The everlasting arms are kind.

What matters it if sorrows come ?
What though the night be dark and long ?
The darkest cloud but hides the sun ;
The everlasting arms are strong.

ONE great purpose in all affliction is to bring us down to the "everlasting arms." What new strength and peace it gives us to feel them underneath us ! We know that, far as we may have sunk, we cannot go any farther. Those mighty arms can not only hold us, they can lift us up. They can carry us along. Faith, in its essence, is simply a resting on the everlasting arms.

THEODORE L. CUYLER.

I will teach you the good and the right way. —

I SAM. xii. 23.

LIVE to do good; but not with thought to win
From man return of any kindness done.

Do naught but good; for such the noble strife
Of virtue is, 'gainst wrong to venture love,
And for thy foe devote a brother's life,
Content to wait the recompense above.
Brave for the truth, to fiercest insults meek,
In mercy strong, in vengeance only weak.

G. W. BETHUNE.

HE began to talk very gently about different sorts of kindness, and that if I wished to be kind like a Christian, I must be kind without hoping for any reward, whether gratitude or anything else. He told me that the best followers of Jesus in all times had tried hard to do everything, however small, for God's sake, and to put themselves away.

JULIANA HORATIA EWING.

For we walk by faith, not by sight. — 2 COR.

V. 7.

THY God hath said 't is good for thee
To walk by faith, and not by sight;
Take it on trust a little while;
Soon shalt thou read the mystery right
In the full sunshine of His smile.

JOHN KEBLE.

AS the arm grows strong only by work, as the memory increases only when made to carry weights, as the eye can see only in the light, so faith has a chance to develop only in darkness and trial. There is no room for faith in the daylight; anybody can trust then. Do not even the atheists so? But he who on the darkness of the tempest-tossed waters can trust Him who stilleth the storm, — he, and he only, can claim to walk by faith.

M. J. SAVAGE.

Let thine heart keep my commandments. —

PROV. iii. 1.

RABBI JEHOSSA had the skill
To know that heaven is in God's will;
And doing that, though for a space
One heart-beat long, may win a grace
As full of grandeur and of glow
As princes of the chariot know.

JAMES RUSSELL LOWELL.

GOD would have us live; if we live we cannot but know, while all the knowledge in the universe cannot make us live. Obedience is the road to all things. It is the only way to grow able to trust Him. Love and faith and obedience are sides of the same prism.

GEORGE MACDONALD.

Take therefore no thought for the morrow. —

MATT. vi. 34.

I THINK not of to-morrow,
Its trial or its task;
But still with childlike spirit
For present mercies ask.
With each returning morning
I cast old things away;
Life's journey lies before me, —
My prayer is for *to-day*.

LET us take short views. Let us not climb the high wall till we get to it, or fight the battle till it opens, or shed tears over sorrows that may never come, or lose the joys and blessings that we have by the sinful fear that God will take them away from us. We need all our strength, and all the grace God can give us for to-day's burdens and to-day's battle. To-morrow belongs to our Heavenly Father.

THEODORE L. CUYLER.

All things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them. —
MATT. vii. 12.

AND each shall care for other,
And each to each shall bend,
To the poor a noble brother,
To the good an equal friend.

RALPH WALDO EMERSON.

NO curse has fallen on us till we cease
To help each other.

GEORGE ELIOT.

TRY to do to others as you would have them do to you, and do not be discouraged if they fail sometimes. It is much better that they should fail in obeying the greatest rule laid down by our Saviour than that you should.

CHARLES DICKENS (*Letter to his son*).

I will guide thee with mine eye. — Ps. xxxii. 8.

OF His high attributes beyond the most,
I thank my God for that omniscient eye,
Beneath whose blaze no secret thing can lie,
In His infinitude of being, lost.
I bless my God I am not wrecked and tossed
Upon a sea of doubt, with power to fly
And hide, somewhither in immensity,
One single sin out of His reckoning crossed.
For even there — self-conscious of its thrall —
Might spring the terror, — “ If He knew the whole,
And tracked the skulking guilt out of its goal,
He could not pardon ! ” But, or great, or small,
He knows the inmost foldings of my soul,
And knowing utterly, forgives me all !

MARGARET J. PRESTON.

HIS eye is upon our ways, upon our souls ;
and we may look into that eye. We
know, or may know, on what that eye rests
with pleasure, on what it rests with pity, on
what it rests with condemnation ; and we can,
if we will, always do the things that please
Him ; and can make His good pleasure our constant
motive, our rule of duty, our reason of
doing and not doing. We can shape ourselves
under the eye of God as He would have us.

ANDREW P. PEABODY.

For we have great joy and consolation in thy love. — PHILEMON i. 7.

THOU in adversity canst be a sun ;
Thou art a healing balm, a sheltering tower ;
The peace, the truth, the life, the love of One,
Nor wound, nor grief, nor storm can overpower ;
Gifts of a king, gifts frequent and yet free ;
There's none like Thee, O Lord, none, none like Thee.

MARIA J. JEWSBURY.

LIKE the sunlight which fills the air all
around us, and enters wherever there is
an opening, so does the presence of God fill
the whole universe, and enters every heart that
opens to receive Him.

H. W. SMITH.

I am not alone, because the Father is with me. — JOHN xvi. 32.

WHAT though we fall, and bruised and wounded lie,
Our lips in dust?
God's arm shall lift us up to victory,
In Him we trust.

For neither life, nor death, nor things below,
Nor things above,
Shall ever sever us that we should go
From His great love.

FRANCES POWER COBBE.

THERE is no father, no brother so pitiful and compassionate as He who calls you His child. Whatever else may fail, be sure that His everlasting love will not fail. He is with you in your struggle against sins, in your search for truth, your woes and griefs and loneliness and trials. All your hope, all your patience, all your regard for what is excellent and imperishable, come from Him. And as He has given you your capacity for His friendship and His likeness, He will train you and guide you to Himself if you are submissive and obedient.

HORATIO N. POWERS.

Lead us not into temptation. — MATT. vi. 13.

AH! He who prayed the prayer of all mankind
Summed in those few, brief words the mightiest plea
For erring souls before the courts of heaven, —
Save us from being tempted — lest we fall.

OLIVER WENDELL HOLMES.

THE petition of *Lead us not into temptation* is the prayer of Christian humility, conscious of its own weakness. If this prayer is truly offered, it may supersede the necessity of temptation. If we are already conscious of our weakness, we may not need the trial which is sent to show us our weakness.

JAMES FREEMAN CLARKE.

Keep thy heart with all diligence, for out of it are the issues of life. — PROV. iv. 23.

O HEART, be true !
True to thyself and to thy God,
Though all around thy path may change ;
Though oft the road that thou hast trod,
To those that hear no guiding word,
Seems hard and strange.
Whatever else the whole wide world may do, —
Be true, my heart, be true !

THE best thing we can do, infinitely the best, — indeed, the only thing, that men may receive the truth, — is to be ourselves true. Beyond all doing of good is the *being* good ; for he that is good, not only does good things, but all that he does is good.

GEORGE MACDONALD.

And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart. — JER. xxix. 13.

WE think what joy it would have been to share
In their high privilege, who came to bear
Sweet spice and costly gem
To Christ in Bethlehem.

And in that thought we half forget that He
Is wheresoe'er we seek Him earnestly :
Still filling every place
With sweet, abounding grace.

PHOEBE CARY.

THANK God, the Christianity of to-day is coming nearer to the world's need. Live to help that on. Thank God, men know better by a hair's-breadth what religion is, what God is, who Christ is, where Christ is. Who is Christ? He who fed the hungry, clothed the naked, visited the sick. And where is Christ? Where? "Whoso shall receive a little child in my name, receiveth me." And who are Christ's? Every one that loveth is born of God.

HENRY DRUMMOND.

A friend loveth at all times, and a brother is born for adversity. — PROV. xvii. 17.

YET of the brother, who along our way,
Prone with his burden, heart-worn in the strife,
Totters before us, — how we search his life,
Censure and sternly punish while we may.
Oh, weary are the paths of earth and hard !
And living hearts alone are ours to guard ;
At least begrudge not to the sore distraught
The reverent silence of our pitying thought.
Life, too, is sacred ; and he best forgives,
Who says, " He errs," but tenderly " he lives."

MARY MAPES DODGE.

DO not keep the alabaster boxes of your love and tenderness sealed up till after your friends are dead. Fill their lives with sweetness. Speak kind, approving, cheering words while their ears can hear them, and while their hearts can be thrilled by them. The things you mean to say after they are gone, say before they go.

To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne. — REV. iii. 21.

HEAVEN is not reached by a single bound ;
But we build the ladder by which we rise
From the lowly earth to the vaulted skies,
And we mount to its summit round by round.

We rise by the things that are under our feet,
By what we have mastered in greed and gain,
By the pride deposed and the passion slain,
And the vanquished ill we hourly meet.

JOHN G. HOLLAND.

OUR appointed life-way is an ascending path upward, if we would have it onward. There are obstacles on it, mercifully placed there to train and exercise our best powers of mind and heart ; none of them insurmountable, though some of them are steep and rough in the climbing. It is for us to choose whether we will stumble on them, crawl round them, or surmount them ; and our destiny is contingent on our choice.

ANDREW P. PEABODY.

And the Lord make you to increase and abound in love one toward another, and toward all men. — 1 THESS. iii. 12.

LEARN that to love is the one way to know
Or God or man ; it is not love received
That maketh man to know the inner life
Of them that love him ; his own love bestowed
Shall do it.

JEAN INGELow.

WHERE love is, God is ! He that dwelleth
in love dwelleth in God. God is love.
Therefore love. Without distinction, without
calculation, without procrastination, love. Lav-
ish it upon the poor, where it is easy ; especially
upon the rich, who often need it most ; most
of all upon our equals, where it is very difficult,
and for whom, perhaps, we each do least of
all. There is a difference between trying to
please and giving pleasure. Lose no chance of
giving pleasure, for that is the ceaseless and
anonymous triumph of a truly loving spirit.

HENRY DRUMMOND.

And the angel said unto them, Fear not ; for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. — LUKE ii. 10, 11.

AND clear to-day as long ago,
The angel chorus echoes still,
Above the clamor and the throe
Of human passion, human woe :
“ Good-will and peace, peace and good-will.”

Through eighteen hundred stormy years,
The dear notes ring and will not cease ;
And past all mists of mortal tears,
The guiding star rebukes our fears ;
“ Peace and good-will, good-will and peace.”

SUSAN COOLIDGE.

IF we will really persevere in our endeavors and in our prayers, we may be sure that He who was on this day born into the world, — the Saviour of sinners, — and who grew up as a tender plant in a dry ground, will cause the dry ground of our hearts to become fruitful, and the seed of grace to spring up, first the blade, then the ear, then the full corn in the ear.

PETER YOUNG.

For He hath said, I will never leave thee nor forsake thee. — HEB. xiii. 5.

O LOVE Divine, whose constant beam
Shines on the eyes that will not see,
And waits to bless us while we dream
Thou leavest us, because we turn from Thee.

Nor bounds, nor climes, nor creed Thou knowest;
Wide as our need Thy favors fall;
The white wings of the Holy Ghost
Stoop seen or unseen o'er the heads of all.

JOHN GREENLEAF WHITTIER.

THE only thing that can really darken the soul is something coming between it and God; but that is impossible so long as the soul remembers His presence. He touches us on every side with His loving, compassionate care.

HENRY VAN DYKE.

Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord. — I COR. xv. 58.

THOUGH scoffers ask where is your gain,
And mocking say your work is vain,
Such scoffers die and are forgot,
Work done for God, it dieth not.

Press on ! press on ! nor doubt nor fear,
From age to age this voice shall cheer :
Whate'er may die and be forgot,
Work done for God, it dieth not.

THOMAS KNOX.

WHEN men do anything for God, the very least thing, they never know where it will end, nor what amount of work it will do for Him. Love's secret therefore is to be always doing things for God, and not to mind because they are very little ones.

FREDERICK WILLIAM FABER.

In the day when I cried Thou answeredst me, and strengthenedst me with strength in my soul. — Ps. cxxxviii. 3.

DEAR Lord, what can I do? I come to Thee;
I have none other helper; Thou art free
To save me or to kill. But I appeal
To Thy dear love, which cannot otherwise deal
Than prove Thyself my friend, Thy will my weal.

HENRY G. SUTTON.

MY mind showed me it was just such as I —
the helpless, who feel themselves helpless — that God especially invites to come to Him, and offers all the riches of His salvation; not forgiveness only, — forgiveness would be worth little if it left us under the power of our evil passions, — but strength, that strength which enables us to conquer sin.

GEORGE ELIOT.

Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you. — JOHN XV. 14.

I SLEPT, and dreamed that life was beauty ;
I woke, and found that life was duty.
Was my dream then a shadowy lie ?
Toil on, sad heart, courageously ;
And thou shalt find thy dream shall be
A noon-day light and truth to thee.

Disciples' Hymn-Book.

WE are to love what He loves, and do what He commands, and suffer what pain or sorrow He sends, and carry what burdens He lays upon us, and in all and through all to rejoice in hope of the glory of God. And remember, every action and every passive grace will contribute something to the completeness that is set in obedience to the will of God and blessed by Him.

RALEIGH.

Speak not evil one of another. — JAMES iv. 11.

NAY, speak no ill; a kindly word
Can never leave a sting behind;
And oh! to breathe each tale we've heard,
Is far beneath a noble mind.
For oft a better seed is sown
By choosing thus a kinder plan;
For if but little good we've known,
Let's speak of all the good we can.

REMEMBER that charity thinketh no evil,
much less repeats it. There are two
good rules which ought to be written on every
heart, — never believe anything bad about any-
body unless you positively know it is true;
never tell even that unless you feel that it is
absolutely necessary, and that God is listening
while you tell it.

HENRY VAN DYKE.

Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature : old things are passed away ; behold, all things are become new. — 2 COR. v. 17.

WHATEVER hath been written shall remain,
Nor be erased, nor written o'er again ;
The unwritten only still belongs to thee,
Take heed and ponder well what that shall be.

HENRY WADSWORTH LONGFELLOW.

WE cannot undo the past and begin afresh. We have to take the past as the starting point and determining element of the future. But the gospel reminds us that what cannot be obliterated may be transmuted by divine grace. In Christ Jesus we may become new creatures ; and in the eternal life that we begin in union with Him all old things, so far as there is any condemning power in them, pass away, and all things in the transfiguring light of heavenly love become new.

HUGH MACMILLAN.



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